



Weekly E-News
December 10, 2025



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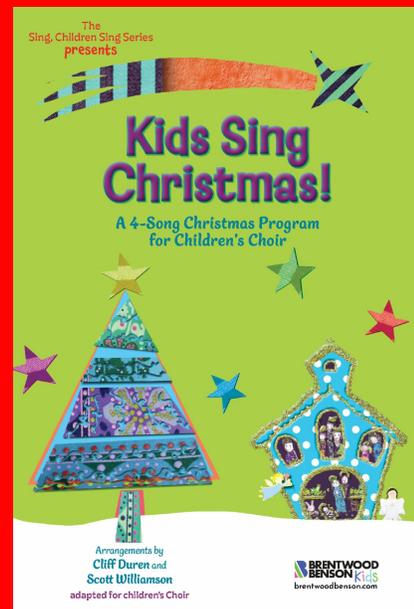
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Sunday, December 14

ONE Service only - at 10 am
Featuring the Children's
Christmas Program

All Angel Tree Adopt A Family
Gifts are due in the library.

Last day to order Poinsettias.



Hello PCUMC Family,

Our family attended Handel's Messiah Friday evening at the Kauffman Center (a belated birthday gift to me from Carly and the kids). I had never heard it live, and it was powerful. It was definitely an experience that helped prepare us for Christmas and the deeper meaning of the season.

At PCUMC, we continue preparing for Christmas as well. This Sunday we will gather for one combined Worship Service at 10 am. As part of this special service, we will enjoy our Children's Christmas Program. I am very grateful for all our volunteers who make this possible - especially Janice Popejoy, who is directing the program. Following worship, we'll share Christmas cookies together (thank you for all those who signed up to bring cookies!), and we will have some special guests for the kids!

On Sunday, in addition to enjoying our children's program, we will light the Third Advent Candle - the Candle of Joy - sing joyful Christmas hymns, and continue our Advent message series, "Don't Miss the Forest for the Tree," with the message "A Family



Tree.”

Preparations are also underway for our Christmas Eve services. We will hold two traditional Candlelight Communion Services at 5:00pm (livestreamed) and 7:00pm. These gatherings are always meaningful as we sing familiar carols, hear the story of Jesus’ birth, and welcome the Light of

Christ into our midst.

It takes many people to make these services possible. In addition to our audio/visual and special music volunteers, we need about 25 volunteers for each service. If you or your family are able to help, please take a moment to look over the opportunities and [click here to sign up.](#)

I look forward to these special moments of worship and celebration with you.

God Bless,

Robert

Sunday, December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent

Message: "DON'T MISS THE FOREST FOR THE TREE - A Family Tree"

- 10 am - ONE Service Only, featuring the Children's Christmas Program. Watch online at Facebook Live and YouTube
- 11 am - Social Time in Fellowship Hall with Special Guests for the Children
- 6 to 8 pm - Youth Group Meeting

Mark Your Calendar



- **Monday, December 15 - Mondays with the Minister** from 12:30 to 2:30 pm at Price Chopper/Starbuck's (final for 2025)
- **Tuesday, December 16 - Prayer Team** meets at Noon in the Prayer Chapel
- **Tuesday, December 16 - LIFT with Christmas Party** (final LIFT for 2025)
- **Thursday, December 18 - Brothers in Christ AT Christmas Banquet.** See below for more info.
- **Christmas Eve - Traditional Candlelight Communion Services** at 5 and 7 pm. Many helpers are needed for these worship services. See signup sheets at the Connect Center & [Electronic Link here.](#)
- **Sunday, December 28 - A Service of Lessons and Carols- ONE** family-friendly service at 9 am - NO Nursery or Children's Church
- **Sunday, December 28 - Wags and Wipes Distribution** from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Holiday Office Schedule and End of the Year Notes

- Open 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, Monday, December 22; Monday & Tuesday, December 29-30. Back to normal hours on Monday, January 5 (Monday through Thursday, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm)
- No E-News on December 24 and 31 – The next issue will be on January 7, 2026
- All 2025 financial contributions must be in the office by noon on December 29 to be counted for 2025.

Christmas draws our attention to familiar traditions.

It's hard not to get caught up in the trappings, the toys, the tinsel, and, of course, the tree. But in all the familiarity of Christmas, we can miss the point. This message series invites us to step back from the Christmas tree to see the bigger picture of what it's all about. Beyond the decorations and the gifts lies a far greater story - a vast forest of wonder and meaning for everyone.

So this Christmas, don't miss the forest for the tree!

Don't Miss the Forest for the Tree

Join us for this Advent Series



Sundays at 9 am for the Traditional Service and 10:45 am for the Blended Service

PLATTE CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PASTOR ROBERT SEFRIT

November 30 - Life Between the Trees
December 7 - Hope from a Tree Stump
December 14 - A Family Tree - Children's Christmas Program (one service at 10 am)
December 21 - Come Down From the Tree
December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services at 5 and 7 pm

Christmas Special Offering

The Offering will pay off the past due lunch balances at Platte City Elementary Schools.

Special Envelopes will be available or make a note on your check or other envelope.



The Sanctuary will be adorned with poinsettias beginning December 21.

You can donate a flower for \$10 and dedicate it in Honor Of or in Memory Of Someone Special in your life. (Drop your payment in the offering plate, clearly marked for Poinsettias.)

There are signup sheets at the Connect Center and you can call or email the office. **Please order by December 15.**



Christmas Banquet Hosted by Brothers in Christ AT All PCUMC men are invited along with your wife or companion.

December 18, 2025 at 5:30 pm

Dave Tucker's Home - 13380 N Highway, Platte City

Sign up at the Connect Center or

RSVP to 520-248-5270 by December 13

Menu: BBQ brisket dinner with all the trimmings!

There will be an ugly sweater contest so come prepared.

There will also be a few games and perhaps some sing-alongs to help bring us into the Christmas Spirit.

We'll have a Unique Gift Exchange with a \$25 limit. Please wrap your gift.

Bring two non-perishable food items (canned goods, pasta, etc.) to be shared with The Blessing Box and The Treasure Chest.

We hope to see you there.

The Blessing Box continues to be used frequently and is being refilled daily, sometimes more than once.

Notice the large tote to the right of the box. It will likely be used for non-food supplies (personal hygiene items, paper products, etc.)

If you would like to contribute, please place the items in the grocery cart outside of Fellowship Hall.

And if you would like to help stock the Blessing Box, please sign up at the Connect Center or call/email the office.



Current requests are for items that will not be impacted by freezing temperatures.

Cereal, Instant Oatmeal, Pancake mix, Syrup, Instant potatoes, Dry pasta, Mac & cheese, Pasta sauce, Crackers, Pudding Mix, Snack bars, Dry Milk, Sugar, Flour
Trash bags, Shampoo, Body Wash, Body Lotion, Kleenex, Toilet Paper



Keeping Kids Safe - A Reminder

PCUMC is a Safe Gatherings church and has an open-door policy for services where everyone is welcome. As our community outreach is growing, we welcome in more

people every month. While we want our children to view the church as a safe place, it is a public space, and we need your help to keep it safe for our children. Please be mindful of letting children go to the restrooms by themselves, or roam the church unsupervised during services. If you would not allow your children to go to the bathroom by themselves at a restaurant, movie theater, or other public place, please do not let them go at church by themselves. During the 9 am service, Carrie is able monitor who comes down the hallway during Children's Church and can supervise bathroom breaks. During the 10:45 service she is not able to do that. Wags and Wipes distribution happens on the last Sunday of the month. There are lots of people coming in both outside doors. Thank you for helping keep our children safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Carrie.

Children's Church (Sunday School)

The December unit is "Jesus Gives Hope", from the Gospels of Luke and John and the book of Romans.

[Click here to check out the Children's page on the website for full details.](#)

Our Bible Memory Buddy is Hope the jaguar, and she wants us to memorize John1:14:

"So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness,"



The December unit is "Advent Countdown" and comes from the book of Jeremiah and the Gospel of Luke.

The memory verse this month is:

"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them." ~Luke 1:68 (NIV)



[Click here to read full details on the Children's page of the website.](#)



Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 and begins with dinner.

All students in Middle School and High School are invited to attend.

Always a Good Time! Invite your Friends!

Here are a few things coming up in our ministry . . .

- December 07 - Youth Group from 6-8
- December 14 - Youth Group from 6-8
- December 21 and 28 - NO Youth Group - Christmas Break

UNEXPECTED: A Series from The Gospels on Christmas



[Click here to read the full schedule with all the details on the Youth page of the website.](#)

Have you downloaded and completed your Profile and Picture in

Instant Church Directory



Get the App or go to
instantchurchdirectory.com



the Instant Church Directory?

(If you've already added a picture, you can update or make a change anytime.)

[You can read instructions for all devices here.](#)



One of the clearest marks of a healthy church is a commitment to prayer. Prayer binds us together. Prayer helps us grow closer to God. Prayer shapes who we are and what we do. Prayer changes things.

- Every Tuesday at noon, The Prayer Team meets in the Prayer Chapel.
- Every Wednesday afternoon, the Prayer Chain email group receives a list of Prayer Concerns. If you would like to be a part of this Prayer Ministry, please respond to this email or call the church office.

As always, if you have prayer requests, you may complete a Prayer Request Card or contact the church office or Pastor Robert.



Our Mission

To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision

Ignite: Faith. Hope. Love

PCUMC is a place where FAITH is kindled, HOPE is ignited, and God's LOVE burns bright through us into our church, community, and world.



You can view past worship services any time using these links. FYI - Facebook only retains the videos for 30 days.

Click [here](#) for all staff email addresses.
Click [here](#) for info about giving options and [here](#) for a form to schedule automatic payments.



Platte City United Methodist Church | www.plattcityumc.com



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