



Weekly E-News
December 21, 2025



14040 N Highway, PO Box 2095
Platte City, MO 64079
Office Phone: 816-858-2441

Pastor Robert Sefrit
816-813-8184

plattecityumc@gmail.com
Facebook: Platte City United Methodist Church
www.plattecityumc.com

Hello PCUMC Family,

It was a joy to see our children up front on Sunday during their Kids Sing Christmas program. Thank you to Janice Popejoy, Carrie VanNess, and all who helped to bring so much joy to our congregation on Sunday. I am also grateful to everyone who purchased Christmas gifts for our Angel Tree families. Seeing the library filled with those gifts on Sunday was a wonderful reminder of the generosity and love of this congregation.



While this season is often marked by joy and celebration, I know that for various reasons this can be a difficult season for many of us. One of my heroes in the faith, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, reminds us that Christmas is not about God coming to take us away from our suffering, but about God coming into it with us. Christmas tells the story of God arriving as a poor and vulnerable child, born into a world shaped by political oppression, danger, and fear. Bonhoeffer famously wrote, "Only a suffering God can help." In other words, God helps the world not by avoiding pain and hardships, but by sharing it. Christmas is the moment God begins to suffer with the world.

So, the comfort of Christmas is that we are not alone in our struggles, our grief, or our pain. God is with us - present, compassionate, and near. As we move through this week leading up to Christmas, may we hold space for both joy and sorrow, and may we continue to be signs of God's ever-present love for one another and for the world.

Grace and peace,

Robert



Sunday, December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Message: "DON'T MISS THE FOREST FOR THE TREE - Come Down From the Tree"

- 9 am - Traditional Service in the Sanctuary. Watch online at Facebook Live and YouTube
- 10 am - Social Time in Fellowship Hall
- 10:45 am - Blended Worship in the Sanctuary
- 11:45 am - Short training for Christmas Eve Helpers
- NO Youth Group Meeting - Christmas Break (next meeting January 11, 2026)

Mark Your Calendar



- **Thursday, December 18 - Brothers in Christ AT Christmas Banquet.**
- **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**
- **Tuesday, December 30 - Prayer Team meets at Noon in the Prayer Chapel**

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



Christmas Special Offering

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

ALL Offering received on Christmas Eve will go to this project unless otherwise noted.

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



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 John 1:14:

*"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.](#)





with dinner.

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

Always a Good Time! Invite your Friends!

Next Youth Group Gathering - January 11, 2026



Use this QR code sign up to provide a meal for the group. There is also a signup sheet at the Connect Center.

Info from the Leadership Council

The Council generally meets the second Tuesday of each month. As part of the meeting, the financial situation of the Church is reviewed.

November 2025

Income = \$49,330.14
Expenses = \$29,798.81
Net Profit = \$19,531.23

Year to Date

Income = \$415,517.18
Expenses = \$491,652.98
Net Loss = (\$4,135.80)

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”

John C. Maxwell

Approved meeting minutes are available if you are interested and can be picked up at the office or can be requested by email at plattecityumc@gmail.com.

Instant Church Directory



Get the App or go to
instantchurchdirectory.com

Have you downloaded and completed your Profile and Picture in 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



Our Mission

To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for

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.

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.plattecityumc.com



Platte City UMC | 14040 N Hwy | Platte City, MO 64079 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!