

December 2017

Tower Topics

HIGH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

219 S. HIGH ST • MUNCIE, IN 47305

Church: 765-747-8500 • Fax: 765-741-5282

Email: info@munciehighstreet.com

Website: www.munciehighstreet.com



Our Mission:

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We live our mission through Worshipping God, Connecting with God and others, and Serving God by serving others.

Sunday Worship:

8:30 – 9:30 AM
Traditional Worship
9:45 – 10:45 AM
Sunday school
9:45 – 10:30 AM
Chapel Worship
11:00 – Noon
Contemporary Worship
Traditional Worship is Broadcast at 11 AM on WXFN – 1340 AM and 102.9 FM

December 21

7:00 p.m. Longest Night Service

December 24

9:30 Sunday morning service
12:00 Noon Communion and Candlelight Service
8:00 p. m. Family Candlelight
9:00 p. m. Reception
11:00 p. m. Traditional Candlelight

December 25 and 26

Office Closed

December 27, 28, 29

Office Open
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

TOWER TOPICS DEADLINES

Deadline for Submission is 8:00 A. M. on Tuesdays
MM = Mid-Month Tower Topics Issue

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Sending date</u>	<u>Issue</u>
December 19	January 9	January

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Darkness and Light

"The light was never in the stone. It was in our eyes all along."

This is the way that Barbara Brown Taylor ends the final chapter of her book, Learning to Walk in the Dark. In the book she describes her own spiritual exploration of darkness and light, and what that can mean for our lives. She points out that human beings have always been fascinated by, inspired by, even terrified by the interplay of these two most basic states of being. A walk with a loved one in the crisp air of fall under the light of a harvest moon is quite different from the darkness of a storm with wind-driven rains, razor sharp blazes of lightning and outbursts of thunder. Yet both are very real aspects of life.

Taylor traces experiences of being "children of God's light" sometimes caught in the darkness of depression, grief, fear and disbelief. She describes her own quest to learn to walk into life's dark places in both spiritual and literal ways. From struggling with disappointments to crawling into "the belly of a live cave" to experience utter sensory-depriving darkness, Taylor challenges her readers to see darkness and light in new ways – with God's presence being made known at all times.

The church seasons of Advent and Christmas allow us all to look with fresh eyes at darkness and light. In the face of the "bleak midwinter" (as Christina Rossetti

would say) we stand together with flickering candles, twinkling decorations, prophetic stories, and songs of hope, each one acknowledging the full reality of darkness and the glowing promise of Immanuel – God with us – in all things. Jesus Christ, from his midnight birth in a stable-cave to the miracle of his resurrection in a burial-cave reminds us the God has been here, is here now, and will be here with us in the future – loving, forgiving, challenging, cajoling us with grace.

Barbara Brown Taylor, as she flicked her head lamp back on in the utter blackness of the cave spotted an impossibly beautiful crystal-laden rock that she grabbed to take with her as a souvenir. She was amazed to discover that when she got back to "ordinary light" her beautiful stone looked as plain and unremarkable as any pebble on any path. But later, when she happened to spot it in the touch of a moonbeam, the breath-taking sparkles had returned. She saw with new eyes. She saw after new experience. She saw after new contemplation of God, the light of the world, transforming fearsome darkness into welcoming space.

May this holy season be a time for you and yours to find God's light, fresh and new, to comfort and sustain you always.

Looking forward to seeing you in church at this wonderful time.

Pastor Sherrill

WORSHIP

Advent and Christmas Worship Opportunities



December 3 (1st Sunday in Advent)

A Service of Giving and Receiving

Celebration of Holy Communion, Giving
Pledge Cards, Advent Wreath Candle
Lighting

Scriptures: Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37

Theme: "Waiting for the Light"

Preacher: Rev. Stacey Fischer Gehring

December 10 (2nd Sunday in Advent)

A Service of Preparation

Orchestra Sunday (8:30am only), Advent
Wreath Candle Lighting

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8

Theme: "A Song of Light"

Preacher: Rev. Sherrie Drake

17 December (3rd Sunday in Advent)

A Service of Joy

Children's Choir & Handbell Choir

Scriptures: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Theme: "The Light in Dark Places"

Preacher: Rev. Stacey Fischer Gehring

**Thursday, 21 December @ 7:00pm - Longest
Night Service**

24 December (4th Sunday in Advent)

@ 9:30am - A Service of Hope

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 1:26-38

Theme: "The Once and Future Light"

Preacher: Rev. Stacey Fischer Gehring

Christmas Eve Services Noon (Chapel)

A Service of Holy Communion

Preacher: Pastor Charlotte Overmyer

8:00pm (Sanctuary) – A Family Service of
Lessons, Carols and Light

Preacher: Rev. Stacey Fischer Gehring

11:00pm (Sanctuary) – A Service of Lessons
and Carols

Preacher: Rev. Sherrie Drake

31 December @ 9:30am – Covenant Service

Preacher: Rev. Sherrie Drake



CONNECT



Christmas Open House at The Burnell Parsonage

2700 W. BURNELL DRIVE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

2:00pm - 5:00pm

Rev. Stacey, Jeff, Evie and Carys
invite you to stop by for some
holiday refreshments and fellowship
at the Senior Pastor's Parsonage.

Please come for a visit!
(Please use the front door.)



Contributing to the Advent/Christmas Decorations

Each year we decorate the sanctuary and the chapel with red poinsettias during Advent and then with white poinsettias for Christmas Eve. In addition, we do what we can to replace worn decorations and add new decorations. All of this, requires some financing.

If you would like to help the church in providing these decorations for this season, you may do so in memory or in honor of someone special to you. Special offering envelopes are being made available. In addition, you may simply use your regular offering envelopes to designate a gift for our decorations. You may also fill out, cut out, and return the below form.

Advent Decorations 2017
Please make sure to print names clearly

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

This gift is given: In Appreciation/Honor

This gift is given: In Memory of

Longest Night Service

We will again work with Meeks Mortuary and Parson Mortuary in conducting our Longest Night Service on Thursday, December 21, at 7:00 p.m. This service is geared especially for those who have lost loved ones and will be facing the Christmas celebration without those loved ones. The service will feature a special time of remembrance with the lighting of votive candles and the candlelight enhanced singing of "Silent Night." A time of refreshment will follow the service.

Advent Orchestra

Please plan to join our Advent Orchestra to play hymns in worship on Sunday, December 10 at 8:30. Anyone who plays an instrument equivalent to at least a high school level can join this joyful, worship event: strings, woodwinds, brass, or percussion. Parts will be available for practicing in advance. We will rehearse in the sanctuary on Saturday morning, December 9, 9:30-11:00. Please contact Andrew Crow with your intent to participate so he can prepare a part for you: andrew.crow.dma@gmail.com



Masterworks Chorale

Muncie's community chorus, Masterworks Chorale, will again perform at High Street Church on Saturday evening, December 16, 7:30pm. The concert will feature our organ, beautiful songs of the season with oboe, and an audience sing-along for the Hallelujah Chorus. Andrew Crow leads the Chorale. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors. Children and students are always free.



Wisdom People for December

Jim Barnell • 95 on December 4
5105 N. Everett Rd.
Muncie, IN 47304



Mary Alice Huffman • 95 on December 8
c/o Paulette Lassiter
6504 E. Centennial Ave.
Muncie, IN 47303

Anna Louise Jurt • 94 on December 12
4704 W. Petty Rd.
Muncie, IN 47304

Robert Ulrich • 93 on December 25
2805 W. Berwyn Rd.
Muncie, IN 47304

Juanita Wisner • 91 on December 31
2000 S. Engle Dr.
Muncie, IN 47302



Thursday Luncheon

December programs. Help spread the news about **Thursday Luncheons!**

\$5, for your entrée, dessert & drink. No tax added; no tipping allowed! If possible, call to sign up by Tues noon!

Dec 7: University Wives & Women's Choral Group.
**Blood pressure checks from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.*

Dec 14: Madison County Music Makers.

Dec 21: Bill Drake and Rodney Gill offer Christmas music.

Dec 28: **NO THURSDAY LUNCHEON! Eat leftovers at home! ☺ See you January 4!**

Christmas Eve Open House

Christmas Eve Open House - All are invited to the annual Christmas Eve open house between worship services on Christmas Eve! If you would like to help, donations of cookies, candy, nuts, cheeseballs, and crackers are appreciated and may be dropped off at the church Sunday morning, December 24th, or if brought in earlier, labeled and placed in the main kitchen freezer or refrigerator if necessary. Workers for the following shifts are also needed: Dec 24th 10:30am - noon - set up; 8-9pm - last minute preparations; 9-10:30pm - serving; and 10pm-done - cleanup. Please contact Kelly Wolfe if you can help.



Preschool Monthly Need

- ♥ Colored Tissue Paper
- ♥ Straws (new)
- ♥ Paper plates
- ♥ Lysol Spray
- ♥ Gallon Ziploc bags



Kid's Holiday



When: Saturday, December 2

Where: High Street UM Church
Children's Nook & Nursery - Ground Floor

Time & Cost: 9am - 12pm \$15 per family
12pm - 3pm \$15 per family
9am - 3pm \$25 per family

Children have the choice of staying for 3 or 6 hours. If the child stays more than 3 hours, the full day rate will be charged.

A noon lunch of pizza will be offered for an additional \$2.00 per child or they may bring their own lunch.

Children will be decorating the ground floor while parents are helping with **"Hanging of the Greens"** OR out preparing for their Christmas in other ways. After lunch crafts, games, and a movie will be the agenda.

Sign up is required. Email to amorrows@munciehighstreet.com or calling Arline Morrow at 765-744-0575.

High Street Travelers - Since 1974



NEW!!!! 2018 OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Mar 18 - Mar 24 Savannah, Jerkll Iskand & Charleston, SC 6 Nights Lodging/10 Meals/Guided Tours/Luggage Handling **\$899 pp**

Apr 26 - May 6 Hawaii Getaway - Sailing on Holland America's MS Noordam Rt Air/2 Nights Waikiki/Pearl Harbor/3 Islands/5 Sea Days/Insurance **\$3268 pp**

June 2 - June 10 Garden of the Gods: Royal Gorge & Colorado Springs Motor Coach transportation/8 Nights/14 Meals/Tours/USAFM **\$TBA pp**

Aug 3 - 10 Viking River Cruise: Paris & The Heart of Normandy Rt Air/8 day cruise/Guided Tours/19 Meals/Insurance **\$4643 pp**

Oct 2 - 4 A Fall Adventure in Michigan - Frankenmuth, Grand Rapids & Saugatuck Motorcoach Transportation/2 Nights lodging/Tours & Admissions/6 meals **\$499 pp**

Nov 24-28 New York City for Christmas motor coach trans./3 nights city lodging/8 meals/tours **\$1694 pp**

Continuing: After every 3rd paid trip in the calendar year you receive a \$25 voucher towards a future trip.

Reservation Policy:

- 1) Contact High Street UM Church at 765/747-8500
- 2) Payment or deposit MUST accompany reservation.
- 3) Cancellations made within 7 days of trip are NOT guaranteed a refund. Tours are open to the Public, clubs & groups. All trips are deluxe motor coach unless noted. High Street Travelers is sponsored by and is a mission of High Street United Methodist Church, 219 S. High St Muncie, IN 47305. COORDINATOR-Deb Heeter
EMAIL: dheeter601@comcast.net



SERVE

High Street Food Pantry Served in 2017

1,287 clients

Thank you for your contributions, both food and monetary, to the High Street Food Pantry! Please leave donations in the wicker baskets at the North Door entrance and in the Narthex.

Food pantry needs:

- Jelly
- Mashed Potatoes
- Peanut Butter
- Pasta Sauce



Samaritan Fund in 2017 252 clients

Utilities:	\$6,847.02
Rent:	\$2,975.00
Prescriptions:	\$797.00
Misc.:	<u>\$1,166.68</u>
Total:	\$11,785.70



Warm Socks for Cold Feet Campaign



Here it comes: UMW's 2nd Annual "Warm Socks for Cold Feet Campaign." It will begin Sunday, October 29 and run through Sunday, December 10. All sized socks are requested—infant through adult, both genders needed. Socks will be distributed to Christian Ministries, Muncie Mission and others. Look for crates in the Narthax and in the church office. Let's cover those cold feet!! Goal: 600 pairs of socks.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Giving Statements

For giving to appear on your 2017 statement, donations must be in the church office on or before December 31 OR postmarked on or before December 31. Offerings received or postmarked after December 31 will be posted to your 2018 statement.



Library Corner

Check out these new books in the High Street Memorial Library

To be Where You Are by Jan Karon - #12 in the Mitford Series

Keeping Love Alive as Memories Fade by Gary Chapman

The Case for Grace by Lee Strobel

True Jesus by David Limbaugh

Hidden Figures by Margo Shetterly

Remember the library is on the second floor next to the elevator. The library is open on Sundays and during the week with a key from the office. A book return slot is located under the display case across from the church office on the first floor.



High Street Memorials/Honors

Memorials:

- LuAnn Trospen
- Betty Fetz
- Martha Black
- Jack Munson
- Howard Jones



Honors:

- In Honor of Charlotte & Mike Overmyer
- In Honor of Jerry McNary
- In Honor of Ben and Karen Howells



Foundation Facts

The Top Ten Reasons to Give to the High Street Foundation

10. Well, yeah, gifts to the Foundation **are** tax deductible. But there's so much more. . .
9. Small, medium-sized, or large gifts become even more significant when they are added together.
8. When your gift becomes a part of the Foundation, it continues to grow until it is needed.
7. Giving toward the future, as well as the present, is an honored tradition of High Street United Methodist Church. A gift to the Foundation provides a wonderful example for our children, grandchildren, and on and on, of our

abiding love for this church and its ministries.

6. Christmas is the season of giving. If you include a gift to the Foundation on your list., you don't have to shop for it, pay shipping charges on it, or be at home waiting for FedEx to bring it to your door
5. Jesus himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35.
4. Remember the widow who placed her two small copper coins among the opulent treasures of the wealthy. In her meditation on this story in the *Women's Devotional Bible*, Jill Briscoe says, "Solomon's temple would stand without the help of the widow's coins, but . . . that sort of giving was the stuff of which the kingdom was made."
3. We are so blessed. A gift to the Foundation allows us to share our blessings with others.
2. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, modeled giving in the way He lived His life and ultimately gave His life for us, His followers. And finally,
1. "Our gifts are acceptable, accepted, and appreciated by God, when given in love. He understands our motivations; he accepts what we bring." (Sue Richards, *Women's Devotional Bible*, p. 1061)



Thank you!

We want to thank all the ladies in the Mary's Circle for their service and most of all their loving hearts. Also, a big Thank You to Pastor Sherrie for being with us at our last meeting and presenting a program on all of the Mary's in the Bible. These last 7 years as Co-Chairmen have brought joy to our hearts and we pray we may keep in touch with each of you. As our circle comes to an end may the love and service continue. Thanks for the many memories.

Marsha Nuerge and Celesta Dudley



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!

**It Was the 101th (Can you Believe That ?) ,
and Now It's Over !!**

Our 101th Annual High Street U.M.W. Bazaar is all over ! A big thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make it another success. Countless hours were used to sew, make, bake, and cook all the items that were available to sell for our U.M.W. mission giving. Thanks to all the 'booth' chairpersons who made lots of phone calls and then worked hard at doing all the things it takes to make a successful bazaar happen! We're so fortunate to have so many talented craft persons (both men and women) who shared their efforts with us. We're grateful to everyone who came and bought the items we had so carefully prepared. Thanks again!!

A special thank you goes to Denby, Joel, and all the men who helped us getting tables, chairs and screens set-up helped again when it was all over to put everything back in place, and also helped in the kitchen. We certainly appreciate your servants' hearts.

You have all helped us help others whether they're here in Muncie, or on the other side of the globe!

Gratefully,
Donna McNary, U.M.W. President



Thank you

The family of Virginia Kay (Jenny) Burgess wish to thank you for your prayers, thoughts, visits, and gifts. They were much appreciated. She left a message for you to think of her when you hear music and smell beautiful flowers. She will always love you.



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

from the Pastors and Staff of High Street
United Methodist Church




High Street United Methodist Church
219 S High Street
Muncie, IN 47305

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Non-Profit Org.
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DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec. 31 - 9:30am One Service	Jan. 1, 2018 - Office Closed	Jan. 2, 2018 - Office Closed	Jan. 3 - Office Open 8am-5pm		1	2 9am-12pm Hanging of the Greens 9am - 3pm Kid's Holiday
3 1st Sunday in Advent Communion/Brown Bag Sunday 8:30 - 9:30am Traditional Worship 9:30 - 9:45am Fellowship & Coffee 9:45 - 10:30am Informal Worship 9:45 - 10:45am Sunday School 10:30 - 11am Fellowship & Coffee 11am - 12pm Contemporary Worship 2 - 4pm Megan & Phil baby shower 4 - 7pm SAF (Seek & Find) - Youth	4 12 - 2pm Mah Jongg Class - 301 1:30 - 2:30pm High Street Pantry Open 3 pm Nominations - Room 301 4:30 - 5:30pm Senior Supper - MCL 5:30 - 7pm Connect Team - Library	5 Travelers in Memphis, TN 6:45 - 8am Renovare - Parlor 8:30 - 10am Church Staff - Library 10am - 12pm Pastoral Staff - Office 11am-12:30pm Ruth Circle Lunch - Parlor 1:30 - 2:30pm High Street Pantry Open 7 - 8pm Discipleship Team - Parlor	6 Travelers in Memphis, TN 9:15 - 11am Women's Bible Study - 301 5:45 - 7pm Handbells - 303 6 - 7pm Children/Youth Choir - 204 & 205 7-8:30pm Sanctuary Choir - 204 & 205 8 - 9pm AA's - 301	7 Travelers in Memphis, TN 8 - 11am SHIP Counseling - Office 11:30am - 1:30pm Thursday Luncheon 4:30pm - 6pm Wesleyan Circle - Parlor 6pm - 7:30pm Lillies - 303	8 12:00 pm-1:30pm Naomi Circle Christmas Carry In- Parlor	9 8am - 12pm Staff Parish Retreat - Room 301 9:30 am - 11am Orchestra Rehearsal - Sanctuary 12pm- 5pm Heavenly Angels Dinner - Parish Hall
10 2nd Sunday in Advent Orchestra Sunday 8:30 - 9:30am Traditional Worship 9:30 - 9:45am Fellowship & Coffee 9:45 - 10:30am Informal Worship 9:45 - 10:45am Sunday School 10:30 - 11am Fellowship & Coffee 11am - 12pm Contemporary Worship 2pm - 5pm Christmas Open House - at Rev. Stacey & families	11 10 - 11:30 am Westminster Fellowship - Pastors 12 - 2pm Mah Jongg Class - 301 1:30 - 2:30pm High Street Pantry Open 7pm Masterworks Chorale practice	12 6:45 - 8am Renovare - Parlor 8:30 - 10am Church Staff - Library 10 am - 12pm Pastoral Staff - Office 10 am - 1pm UMW General meeting - PH 12 - 2pm Samaritan Appt./Lunch - Parlor 1pm Open Door set-up - PH 1:30 - 2:30pm High Street Pantry Open 3-7pm Open Door set-up - PH 3:30-4:30pm Property Committee - 301	13 9-11:30am Mommy & Me - 302 9:15-11am Women's Bible Study - 301 1 - 3pm Elder-Law Counseling - Library 4-6pm Finance Meeting - 301 5:45 - 7pm Handbells - 303 6 - 7pm Children/Youth Choir - 204 & 205 7-8:30pm Sanctuary Choir - 204 & 205 8 - 9pm AA's - 301	14 8 - 11am SHIP Counseling - Office 11:30am - 1:30pm Thursday Luncheon 1:15pm Thursday Luncheon meeting 1:30-3pm Archives Committee - 301	15 5-10pm Masterworks set-up Parish Hall 5-10pm Masterworks rehearsal Sanctuary	16 7:30-8:30pm Masterworks Chorale Concert - Sanctuary 8:30-9:30pm Masterworks Reception - Parish Hall
17 3rd Sunday in Advent Handbells/Children singing 8:30 - 9:30am Traditional Worship 9:30-9:45/10:30-11 Fellowship & Coffee 9:45 - 10:30am Informal Worship 9:45 - 10:45am Sunday School 9:45am Children's Variety Show 11am - 12pm Contemporary Worship 5 - 7pm The Grove	18 8:30am-12:30pm Preschool Party - G6 10am Preschool Chapel 11:30am-12pm Preschool Santa - G1 12 - 2pm Mah Jongg Class - 301 1:30 - 2:30pm High Street Pantry Open	19 6:45 - 8am Renovare - Parlor 8:30 - 10am Church Staff - Library 8:30am-12:30pm Preschool Party - G6 10 am - 12pm Pastoral Staff - Office 10:30am Preschool Chapel/Santa - G1 12pm Tower Topics Deadline 1:30-2:30pm High Street Pantry Open	20 Preschool Party - G6 6-7am Men's Breakfast prep - PH 7-8am UM Men's Breakfast - Parish Hall 9:30am Preschool Chapel - G1 1pm Preschool Chapel - G1 6 - 7pm Children/Youth Choir - 204 & 205 7-8:30pm Sanctuary Choir - 204 & 205 8 - 9pm AA's - 301	21 7:15-8am Kingdom Advisor's Grp - 301 8am-11am Ship Counseling - Office 11:30am - 1:30pm Thursday Luncheon 6pm - 7:30pm Lillies - 303 7pm-8pm Longest Night Service	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 9:30am One Service 12:00 pm Communion & Candle Ser. 8pm Family Candlelight Service 9pm - 10:45pm Reception - PH 11pm Traditional Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas Office Closed 	26 Office Closed	27 9am - 12pm Office Open	28 9am - 12pm Office Open	29 9am - 12pm Office Open	30