

Carol	<i>Away in a Manger</i>
Child Dedication	Riorden Axel Woline (Nov. 1, 2011) Landon Hulme Stull (Sep. 11, 2007) Ansley Nicole Stull (Mar. 1, 2010)
Responsive Reading	Parent: With deepening devotion and abiding faith, we acknowledge our commitment to love and nourish our children. We give thanks for the strength of this community, and hope that you will support us in our joyous responsibility. Family & Congregation/Friends: Parents, we will support you. Riorden, Landon and Ansley, we bless you and are blessed by your presence among us. We will honor all that you are. We receive the gift of your life into our community. We pledge to you our caring, our wisdom and our trust. We will endeavor to see and hear you truly. We promise never to close our hearts against you. On this day we dedicate ourselves anew to building a world ever more worthy of your gifts of life and hope. Amen.
Choir	<i>Winter Night</i> by Shelley Jackson Denham
Reading the Names of New Children	
Choir (and Congregation)	<i>For So the Children Come</i> Music by J. Shelton; Words by Sophia Lyon Fahs
Sharing Our Abundance	Your generous Christmas Eve contribution will be divided between Hawthorn Hill (New Directions Shelter and The Home Connection Program) and the Iowa Refugee Support Project.
The Christmas Story and Songs	
The Story Begins <i>Sylvia Visser</i>	<i>O, Little Town of Bethlehem</i>
The Donkey's Story <i>Kay Hertz</i>	<i>Jesus Our Brother</i>
The Ox's Story <i>David Witke</i>	<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>
The Angel's Story <i>Adelia Brown</i>	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>
The Shepherd Boy's Story <i>Priscilla Witke</i>	<i>The First Nowell</i>

The King's Story
Mary Hays

We Three Kings

Passing the Light

***Carol**

Silent Night

Benediction

Extinguishing the Candles

Leader: I extinguish the symbolic flame of this gathering. May we carry its light into the world.

People: *Let us go from this place, open to life, expecting to love, and prepared to serve.*

Thank You to all Service Participants and to Today's Hospitality Teams:

Ushers: Amy Knudsen, Learie Jones, Salat Jones

Social Area: Kathy Karpinen

Facilitator: Katie Allen

Sound Board Operator: 5:00 & 7:00 p.m. - Bill allen


Hearing Impaired: radios may be found at the rear of the auditorium. Please tune to 107.9 MHz FM.

Visually Impaired: full page magnifiers may be found at the rear of the auditorium.

Sharing Our Abundance: *Hawthorn Hill - New Directions Shelter* provides emergency short-term housing and support while *The Home Connection* program provides for up to two years of housing and family support, with a goal of permanent housing. *Iowa Refugee Support Project (IRSP)* builds community between Iowans and refugees through cultural interaction and volunteer-led education and support programs. Through our goal of hospitality, refugees and Iowans create friendships and deepen cultural understanding. We believe the relationships built through our program improve the refugees' chances of success in their new lives.

Save the Date

Saturday, Jan. 28, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
A Roasting of the Reverend!
 Celebrate Mark Stringer's first decade with us.
 Plan to attend the 2012 canvass kickoff pledge party!
 Enjoy great food and a **very** fun show.
 Then make your financial pledge to...
STEP UP TO THE NEXT DECADE:
Expanding our Capacity for the Future!



CALENDAR

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service 5:00 & 7:00 p.m., Auditorium

As the darkness envelops the land on this night of memory and tradition for so many of us, share in a **5 pm child-friendly service** featuring the story of the birth of Jesus, as it could have been told by those present that magical, mythical night more than 2,000 years ago (think animals, angels, etc.). We will sing carols and share in some traditional holiday cheer and candlelight. Children will be dedicated at the early service. (No child care will be provided. However, children are welcome in the service, or you may listen to the service from the nursery.)

(Calendar continued...)

At 7 pm, we will share in our familiar evening service, complete with carol singing, a homily from Mark, and candlelight. (No child care will be provided. However, children are welcome in the service, or you may listen to the service from the nursery.)

Following both services, you are invited to linger and enjoy cookies and holiday fellowship.

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day Service 10:00 a.m., Auditorium (One Service Only)

"Torn Paper and Broken Toys" with Bill Allen

A service of stories to offer community and a change of pace from the previous few weeks. The holiday season with its obsession for compulsory joy and happiness, coupled with the apparent peace on earth good will to all mandate, sometimes steam rollers emotions and brings about anything but joy and happiness...or good will for that matter. In this heady season, full of gifts, parties and family, it can be easy to miss the opportunities for positive interactions with those who might not have some or any of these. (No child care will be provided. However, children are welcome in the service, or you may listen to the service from the nursery.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office Closing for the Holidays

The church office will be closed through Monday, Jan. 2, 2012. The office will reopen for regular hours on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

Reminder: *One Service Only (10:00 a.m.)* for Sunday, Jan. 1. "Now Let Us Sing" with Moira Leu and your Religious Services Committee. (No child care will be provided. However, children are welcome in the service, or you may listen to the service from the nursery.)

Thank you for "Taking the Leap" in 2011

It is an exciting time at First Unitarian with new and old members alike coming together in many activities, committees and ministries. Average church attendance is pushing 250 people per week. All these exciting happenings are occurring because of your generous spirit in "Taking the Leap" in pledging. As we approach the holidays and the close of 2011, remember to make your pledge payments to take advantage of the tax deduction for your 2011 income tax return. **Any pledge payments received AFTER Sunday, December 25 will be credited to next year.**

"Don't Stop Believin'!" First Unitarian video on YouTube!

Remember that fantastic energy surrounding the recording of our fist music video in November? Now it's available for all to see on YouTube and www.ucdsm.org. Thanks again to all who participated, especially Kent Newman, the Flames Choir, and Karen Kraemer! Check it out!

Outdoor Enthusiasts - It's Not Too Late to Sign Up!

Join other UUs for a weekend of cross-country skiing at a secluded resort near Detroit Lake, Minnesota, Jan. 26-29, 2012. Other amenities include the largest hot tub in Minnesota, steam room, saunas, massage therapists, a library and game room, all-you-can eat gourmet meals, free beverage bar and a bottomless cookie jar. Ski lessons, snow shoeing, ice skating and kick sledding are also available. Make your \$100 per-person deposit soon to guarantee your spot. Contact Doug Aupperle to sign up: 277-1263 or dra427@mchsi.com.

Joys and Concern

To have a joy or concern shared during Sunday services, please e-mail joysand-concerns@ucdsm.org by noon on Friday.

Interested in receiving a weekly email from the RE program? Email Tracy Beck at dre@ucdsm.org to be added to the list.

(Announcements continued on back)

Caring Ministry

Remember, the Caring Ministry Team is here for those in need of transportation, calls or visits, meals when recuperating and more. If you are in need, or know of someone who might be, or if you want to provide a service, please contact Mary Bourquin at 771-4484 or borkiniowa@yahoo.com, or Barb Martin at 288-3427 or barb.martin.dm@gmail.com.

Events

Windbreakers *Sunday, Jan. 1, 6:00 p.m., Channing Hall*

Join other Unitarian men at this monthly potluck social.

All Church Sledding Party *Wednesday, Jan. 4, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., at Sleepy Hollow Sports Complex: \$5.00/person admission*

Regular Wednesday Night Programming resumes Jan. 11.

First Friday at 5 *Friday, Jan. 6, 5:00 p.m., The Continental (428 E Locust, DM)*

All church members and friends are welcome to enjoy some casual socializing at this Interweave-sponsored event. Interweave is a UU group for LGBT persons and straight allies that focuses on social activities, social justice work, and public education.

Bridge *Friday, Jan. 6, 7:00 p.m., Channing Hall*

Knowledge of the fundamentals of bridge is needed, but beyond that, skill levels range from novice to expert. Contact Wynell Kisner at 265-4442 or at mwk987@yahoo.com.

Young Adult Social Outing: Buccaneer's Hockey Game *Saturday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m., 95KGGO Arena (7201 Hickman)*

Join us for a Buc's ice hockey game! Tickets are \$19, but if we get a group of 20 people, ticket price goes down to \$10. Please RSVP no later than Jan. 3 to youngadultsuudsm@gmail.com

Energy & Justice Meeting *Sunday, Jan. 8, 11:00 a.m., Conference Room*

First Steps *Sunday, Jan. 8, 11:00 a.m., Peace Library*

For visitors who want to learn more about First Unitarian Church.

Interweave Potluck *Sunday, Jan. 8, 12:15 p.m., Conference Room*

Bring your enthusiasm and something tasty to share. Interweave is a UU group for LGBT persons and straight allies that focused on social activities, social justice work and public education.

Full Moon Ritual *Sunday, Jan. 8, 5:00 p.m., Patio/Channing Hall*

This is family friendly, and weather permitting, outdoors. For inclement weather, we will move to Channing Hall. If you have questions or are interested in collaborating for either night, please contact Cynthia Lee: cynthiale71@gmail.com.

Women's Potluck *Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.*

Open to all Unitarian women as an opportunity to share food and conversation. Please bring a dish to share.

Board of Trustees Meeting *Thursday, Jan. 12, 6:00 p.m., Conference Room*

Members are welcome to attend.

Human Rights Action Group *Sunday, Jan. 15, 12:30 p.m., Conference Room*

Currently working to protect Marriage Equality and pass a Death with Dignity law in Iowa.

First Unitarian Church of Des Moines

A Unitarian Universalist Church

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First Unitarian Church of Des Moines invites people into a respectful, authentic, and joyful religious community that nurtures meaningful connections, pursues justice, and inspires service.

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FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

of Des Moines

Open to Life, Expecting to Love, Prepared to Serve

A Unitarian Universalist Church

ORDER OF SERVICE

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2011, 5:00 p.m..

Bruce Martin, pianist

**Please stand as you are able*

Intoning the Chime

Call to Gather

Rev. Mark Stringer

*Carol

Deck the Halls With Boughs of Holly

Lighting the Chalice

“Christmas Returns” by Howard Thurman

Leader: Christmas returns, as it always does, With its assurance that life is good.

People: *It is the time of lift to the spirit, When the mind feels its way into the commonplace, And senses the wonder of simple things: An evergreen tree, Familiar carols, merry laughter.*

Leader: It is the time of illumination, When candles burn, and old dreams Find their youth again.

People: *It is the time of pause, hen forgotten joys come back to mind, And past dedications renew their claim.*

Leader: It is the time of harvest for the heart, When faith reaches out to mantle all high endeavor, And love whispers its magic word to everything that breathes.

People: *Christmas returns, as it always does, With its assurance that life is good.*

*Carol

Sing We Now of Christmas

Welcome

Rev. Mark Stringer

Carol

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Reading

Lyra Halsten

From the Gospel Book of Luke

Carol

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Reading

Adele Villemez

From the Gospel Book of Matthew