



# THE TOWER

The monthly newsletter of  
**Pocatello First United Methodist Church**



**Christmastide**

**January 2022**

---

**Celebrate the season: 12 ideas for the 12 days of Christmas**—By Joe Iovino UMC Communications

After months of planning and anticipation, Christmas appears to be over all too quickly. On December 26, retailers tell us we are in the *after-Christmas* season of returns, exchanges, and more sales. The church calendar however, tells us it is still Christmas. The 12 days we sing about in that crazy song, are a real season, sometimes called Christmastide or the days after Christmas leading to Epiphany on January 6. During this season, we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Word of God made flesh who made his home among us (John 1:14 CEB).

**To help celebrate the season**, here are 12 creative, simple ideas that have nothing to do with partridges or lords-a-leaping.

### Have a silent night

One evening, turn off everything electronic and share Christmas memories. Go through old photos. Watch family movies (you might need to turn on the television for that). Ask others to tell of their favorite family Christmas tradition, and a joy-filled memory of a Christmas past. Spend a few moments talking about the Christmas story and the characters with whom you most relate.

### Sing the songs of Christmas

We sing many Christmas carols without thinking much about the words. Take some time to research the lyrics of songs as you sing them. Where is the author biblically accurate? Where did she or he take poetic license? This is a great way to learn the biblical accounts of the Christmas story and some of the symbolism used.

### Remember the refugees

One of the crises in our world in recent years is the number of refugees risking their lives to leave war-torn nations to find places of safety and peace. If a church or another organization in your area is sponsoring refugees find out how you can help. Offer your support and prayers.

Additionally, make efforts to be a person of radical hospitality by welcoming the stranger, giving food to the hungry, visiting church members who do not get out, and opening your home to family and friends who are alone.

### Don't return — give

Rather than returning the ugly sweater you'll never wear or the kitchen gadget you'll never use, give it away! Many places and individuals will benefit from those unwanted items. The sweater will keep someone warm, and the gadget will be sold in a secondhand store to generate funds for a ministry.

### Pray through your un-decorating

As you put away the Christmas decorations, consider the symbols of the tree and evergreens, the Nativity, the wreath, and more. Pray as these signs may get packed away for 11 months, the spirit of Christ will continue to be alive in you throughout the year ahead.

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Christmastide

Celebrate the season: 12 ideas for the 12 days of Christmas—Continued from page 1

---

## Travel by a different route

The Christmas story contains several journeys — Mary visits Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph travel to be taxed, the Wise Men follow the star to Bethlehem, and Jesus and his family move to Egypt when King Herod orders the slaughter of baby boys. Many of us go on special journeys over Christmas, in addition to the time we spend in the car every day. Consider traveling by a different route. Maybe that means taking the back way home from work or stopping by that roadside attraction as you return from Grandmother's house. Let the new journey remind you that we are to follow Jesus wherever he leads.

## Have mealtime devotions

Each of the 12 days of Christmas, spend some time during a meal for family reflection. Ask questions. Share concerns. Tell stories. Give thanks. Sense the presence of Jesus among you.

## Pray for the persecuted

Those of us privileged to live in places where we are free to pursue our faith sometimes forget there are people in other places whose celebrations of Christmas could come at the cost of their freedom or lives. Take some special time to pray for them.

## Record aha moments

Christmas can be a time of important moments you do not want to forget. A quiet moment with a relative may remind you of the importance of family. A worship service may give you new insight into how to live as a follower of Jesus. A frustrating experience in a store may encourage you to be more patient. Write those insights some place you can return in the weeks and months ahead for a reminder.

## Plant a tree

At Christmas, we celebrate the gift of new, eternal life we have received in Christ. The evergreen trees we decorate are a symbol of everlasting life. Planting a tree or caring for the earth in another way can serve as a wonderful reminder of our call to be people who celebrate life.

## Begin a faithful intention

Many people make New Year's Resolutions to lose weight or give up an unhealthy habit. Consider a faithful intention this year to help you grow in your spiritual life. Rather than waiting until January 1 to begin, start during the Christmas season.

## Be a person of peace

We may not be able to do much to promote world peace, but we have the power to make the world around us more peaceful. Spend the twelve days of Christmas practicing ways you can eliminate harsh words, anger, and other negative attitudes from your life.



Our UMW Circle met for their combined November and December meeting on the 8th of December. We had a great meeting celebrating Christmas and the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you to Charlotte Cresswell for the great program. We talked about the Christmas characters and how they relate to us. Thank you also to Judy Del Debbio for playing her guitar as we sang songs from the hymnal. We also played a fun game while exchanging gifts.

We will meet for our next meeting on **Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 10:00am** in the Fireside Room. All women are invited to join us for an interesting program and Christian fellowship. After our meeting we will go out to lunch at a place to be decided at the meeting. If you have any questions, please call Charlotte Cresswell at 208-233-6852.

# Thank You for your giving !

---



The Mission Committee thanks the Angel Tree gift givers for your beautiful gifts! We are thankful for your enthusiastic response. Giving a gift on behalf of an incarcerated parent strengthens the family bond. We so appreciate your making this mission possible

Thanks to all who donated blankets for our 28th annual Portneuf Valley Interfaith Fellowship blanket drive! They were distributed to The Salvation Army, St. Vincent DePaul Mission, Aid for Friends, and SEICAA.

## Ways to get involved in 2022

- **Be a liturgist for our Worship service in 2022.** The liturgist reads the first and second readings from the Bible and may be involved in other parts of the service. The week that you are liturgist, you will receive an email from the church office telling you which verses you will be reading and if you are involved in any other part of the service.

There is a signup sheet for 2022 on the bulletin board outside the office or you may call the church office.

- **Be an Usher**  
Greet our members and visitors, pass out the bulletin, collect the offering during the service
- **Congregational Care Team**  
In the new year, we will be starting this! More info to come about this and ways to be involved.

### Volunteers needed

On Friday, **January 7** from **9:30am to 1:00pm**, rally together to take down and pack the Christmas decorations. Many hands and hearts make the work light. Contact Kris Rudd if questions 208-252-2276



---

## New Directories Are Available

The Church directory has been updated, don't forget to grab a copy. They are on the table outside of the Church office.

## Prayer Concerns-*Please hold the following people in your prayers during the coming weeks*

- Tessa Fowler-recovering from a stroke, pray for healing
- Kathie Warth's neighbor Greg-in hospital from heart attacks, prayers for healing
- Roberta Turner-prayers for minimal side effects from chemotherapy meds she is taking

### January Birthdays

Sandra Mankand	1	Bobby Mills	20
Ron Wilson	4	Ann Hope Vegors	22
Linda McDonald	5	Chris Dorsey	24
Jesse Kiboko	8	Kay Flowers	26
Sunny Boadway	11	Joan Iannacone	27
Allison Bulger		Larry Morton	
Iris Mayer		Lynda Montgomery	28
Kris Baker	12		
Nancy Kell	14		
Beverly Cooper	16		
Fallon Deatherage-Bradley			
Roberta Turner			
Loave Garton	17		
Kathy Horsch			
Charlotte Cresswell	18		

### January Anniversaries

Alan & Margaret Johnson 5

## Upcoming Events-We have lots to look forward to in the New Year:

- On Sunday, **January 2**, we will join together in an adaptation of John Wesley's covenant renewal service led by our 2021 lay leader, Larry Morton, and our 2022 lay leader, Robin Terrell.
- On Sunday, **January 9**, there will be baptisms, confirmations, and new member vows with Stacey Jensen, one of our 2021 confirmation teachers, preaching.
- On Sunday, **January 16**, Lynda Montgomery, our UMW Circle, and guest preacher Rochelle Kilette will lead us in a special United Methodist Women's Sunday.

### Upcoming Special Offerings:

- **January 2: Pastor's Discretionary fund** - consider helping our pastor and administrative assistant to spontaneously bless the church's members and neighbors who are in need.
- **January 9: Millie's Nickels** - consider bringing some spare change to give for small, special projects around the church that aren't covered by the general budget.
- **January 16: Human Relations Day** - One of the six special Sundays in the United Methodist Church, Human Relations Day is always observed on the Sunday before Rev. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday and supports Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs all around the world. Individual donations will be deposited into the church's accounts, and First UMC will send on a single gift.



**Pocatello First  
United Methodist Church**  
200 N. 15th Ave.  
PO Box 4015  
Pocatello, ID 83205  
(208)232-1353  
www.pocatelloumc.org

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday-Thursday  
8:15am-1:00pm



**2022**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
FR=Fireside Room CR=Conference Rm CH=Chapel						<b>1</b> <u>New Years Day</u> Happy Birthday Sandra Mankand
<b>2</b> 9:00am-Adult Sunday School-FR 10:00-Worship- Sanct-Covenant Svc Offering-Pastor's Discretionary fund	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Happy Birthday Ron Wilson	<b>5</b> 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's Happy Birthday Linda Mcdonald Happy Anniversary Alan & Margaret Johnson	<b>6</b> 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's 7:00pm- Volleyball Gym	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Happy Birthday Jesse Kiboko
<b>9</b> 9:00am-Adult Sunday School-FR 10:00am-Worship- Sanct- Confirmation Bap- tism/New Mem Svc Offering-Millie's Nickels	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Happy Birthday Allison Bulger Sunny Boadway Iris Mayer	<b>12</b> 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's 6:30pm- Leader- ship Team-FR	<b>13</b> 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's 7:00pm- Volleyball Gym	<b>14</b> Happy Birthday Nancy Kell	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00am-Adult Sunday School-FR 10:00am-Worship- Sanct-UMW Day Human Relations Day Happy Birthday Beverly Cooper Fallon Deatherage- Bradley Roberta Turner	<b>17</b> <u>Martin Luther King Jr Day</u> Happy Birthday Loave Garton Kathy Horsch	<b>18</b> Happy Birthday Charlotte Cresswell	<b>19</b> 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's	<b>20</b> 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's 7:00pm- Volleyball -Gym Happy Birthday Bobby Mills	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Happy Birthday Ann Hope Vegors
<b>23</b> 9:00am-Adult Sunday School-FR 10:00am-Worship- Sanctuary	<b>24</b> Happy Birthday Chris Dorsey	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 8:00am-UMM @ Butterburr's 10:00 am-UMW Fireside Room Happy Birthday Kay Flowers	<b>27</b> 7:00am-Women's Fellowship @ Butterburr's 7:00pm- Volleyball - Gym Happy Birthday Joan Iannacone Larry Morton	<b>28</b> Happy Birthday Lynda Montgomery	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00am-Adult Sunday School-FR 10:00am-Worship- Sanctuary	<b>31</b>					



Pocatello  
First United  
Methodist Church  
PO Box 4015  
Pocatello, ID 83205

US Non-profit  
postage paid  
Permit #13  
Pocatello, ID

Address Service Requested

### United Methodist Men

All men of the church are invited to join the United Methodist Men for breakfast and fellowship at Butterburr's every Wednesday morning at 8:00 am.

### Women's Fellowship

Please come and join us for breakfast and fellowship at Butterburr's every Thursday morning at 7:00 am.

**Office Hours**  
Monday-Thursday  
8:15am-1:00pm  
You may contact us by phone at  
(208) 232-1353  
[office@pocatelloumc.org](mailto:office@pocatelloumc.org)  
January 2022