



United Methodist Churches of Anson, Holcombe, Jim Falls

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REFLECTIONS

Happy Advent and the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!! The lights are up, the water is hard, and people are hustling and bustling. Makes me wonder if our hearts are hardened just like the lake because we get caught up in the world. Does ice reflect like water? Not really. Think about that for a minute. If our heart is cold and hard, do we reflect anything? Especially at a time when we just finished giving thanks and celebrating Thanksgiving. Now we turn our minds to Christmas even though the stores have put it in our minds a month or two ago. Advent is the preparation of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Emanuel, GOD with us. I love that. "GOD with us!" What a feeling to know that GOD is still dwelling with us as the Holy Spirit. There is so much anxiety that is associated with Christmas. The food, the shows, the perfect gifts, the planning. It goes on and on. During all the chaos, stop and take a moment to think about what touches our hearts about Christmas. Think about Christmas' past and the joy they have brought to us. Think about coming together and enjoying the spirit. This is what Christmas is. It's the spirit of Jesus coming as our Messiah of salvation for the world, a spirit that moves us and touches so many. These past Sunday's, we have been hearing about our spirits, GOD touching them and speaking to us through the spirit. We need to open and melt the ice that encases human hearts. That is what Jesus has taught through the scriptures for us the beloved to witness. To witness to humankind that our love is from our GOD, the one true to all. GOD is true to the word and fulfills all that is written. We confirm the word with the birth of Jesus and the story of a living Savior who comes from simple, bleak beginnings, who sets the world on fire to reach all people throughout the earth. I wish for you all to come and enjoy our Christmas Eve service and enjoy good tidings and fellowship. Invite a friend. What better night than Christmas Eve to "Make a **friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ**". Mary and I want to wish you all a wonderful holiday and Merry Christmas!! May Christ touch our soul and dwell inside our hearts for all to see. Merry Christmas.

Love and Laughter

Pastor Paul+

→ Charge News ←

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Please sign up to be a liturgist and share your gifts.

December 1st

Old Testament

Isaiah 2: 1-5

New Testament

Romans 13: 11-14

Gospel

Matthew 24: 36-44

“Finding Hope”

December 8th

Old Testament

Isaiah 11: 1-10

New Testament

Romans 15: 4-13

Gospel

Matthew 3: 1-12

“Peace of Mind”

December 15th

Old Testament

Isaiah 35: 1-10

New Testament

Luke 1: 47-55

Gospel

James 5: 7-10

Matthew 11: 2-11

“Spreading JOY”

December 22nd

Jim Falls and Anson Special Christmas Eve Service at 5:30pm

Old Testament

Isaiah 7: 10-16

New Testament

Romans 1: 1-7

Gospel

Matthew 1: 18-25

“Love to All”

December 24th CHRISTmas Eve
CHRISTmas Stories in each Gospel

December 29th

Old Testament

Isaiah 63: 7-9

New Testament

Hebrews 2: 10-18

Gospel

Matthew 2: 13-23

“The King Is Here”

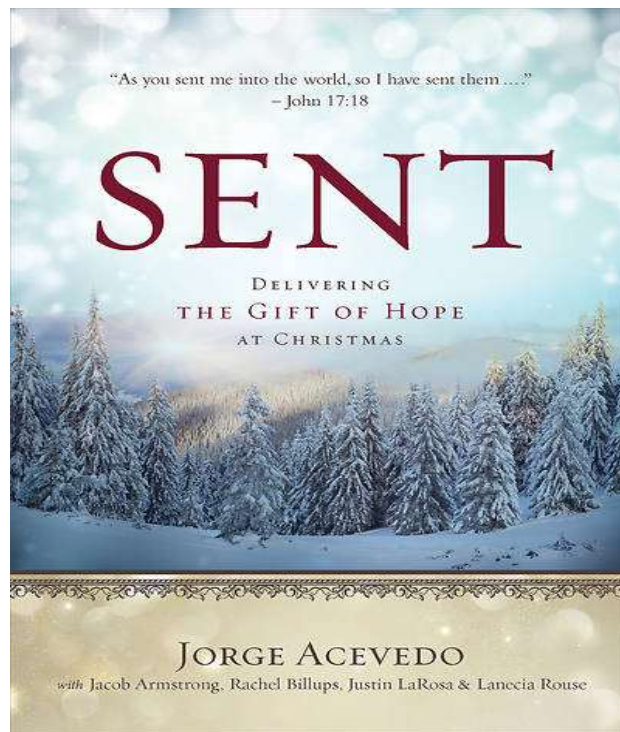
ADVENT

We will be talking about “JOY” and the book study of “SENT” will be where our joy will come from. Looking forward to this study and joining to take a journey on why Jesus was sent here.

Holcombe will meet on Mondays (Nov. 25th – Dec. 17th) at noon.

Jim Falls and Anson will meet at Jim Falls on Tuesdays (Nov. 26th – Dec. 16th) at noon.

For both of the studies, please plan to pack a lunch to bring along with you.



THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF TIME TO SIGN UP TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CHURCH DIRECTORY. THE LAST PHOTOGRAPHY DATES AVAILABLE WILL BE JANUARY 7TH & 8TH, 2020. THEY WILL BE TAKEN AT THE HOLCOMBE UMC. YOU CAN SIGN UP BY CONTACTING JENNIFER AT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 715-595-4967 OR BY EMAILING THE CHURCH.



STAINED GLASS CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7th
9AM-4PM

Stained glass panels, large and small, beveled items,
suncatchers, holiday, flowers, nature

Great for Christmas shopping

Bake Sale and lunch available

ANSON METHODIST CHURCH
9439 190th Street
1 MILE EAST OF LAKE WISSOTA
STATE PARK, JUST OFF COUNTY O
WATCH FOR SIGNS

→ Holcombe News ←

Unapproved Holcombe Ad Council minutes November 14th, 2019

4:30 time due to Madrigal practice

Convened 4:35p. Present: Pastor Paul, Liz Dempsey, Cheri Bingham, Bonnie Gundlach. Mary Beede, Carla Ingalls, Bill Stimeling. Due to Sue Dahlstrom being ill, Bill served as interim secretary.

- Meeting opened with centering prayer by Liz
- Pastor shared several ideas for reenergizing the charge-churches, discussion followed and ideas will be revisited.
- Minutes were presented. Motion by Bill, second by Bonnie. Approved.
- Carla presented the Treasurer's report and related that the monthly fiscal report showed no anomalies, everything pretty much "normal." She noted that the counting crew was doing a great job! Motion by Bonnie to approve/accept the report, second by Cheri. Approved.
- Upcoming Special Worship services were noted, i.e. Blaze-Orange Hunters' Service, Sunday, November 17. Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Cornell Assembly of God, Wednesday, November 20, 6:00p. Holcombe's Advent focus will be centered on "JOY."
- There was no report from the Finance Committee.
- No report by Member ship Committee.
- **SPRC** met prior to Charge Conference in order to set 2020 charge budget.
- Holcombe UMW 2019-2020 officers were installed by Barbara Bender on November 14. 2020 Mission U will be shorter and less costly.
- Mission Committee asked that an honorarium of \$75.00 be forwarded to Paul Webster, check to be provided from the General Fund. Moved by Cheri, second by Bonnie. Approved. Student Support program is underway and everyone affirmed the concept. However, it was suggested that a line-item be included in the budget for mission. Further suggestion was for any donation to this project to be identified as such on check. Noisy bucket offering will be on the last Sunday in November.
- Nominations Committee will meet on Sunday, November 17 at 2:00p.
- Sue reported (in absentia) that blacktop companies have been contacted with one on-site evaluation of the parking lot already conducted. Preliminary estimates for replacement are expected shortly.
- Community/Church Support Ministries will be topic for planning/discussion at a date/time yet-to-be-determined. "*Taste-of-the Tundra*" will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2020.
- Response to the charge's Pictorial Directory has been less than anticipated. Encouragement for signing-up will be given from the pulpit on upcoming Sundays.
- A date for revisiting/revising the Holcombe UMC Ministry Plan will occur in early 2020.
- Next Ad Board meeting will be on Thursday, December 5, 4:30p.
- Motion to adjourn by Bonnie, second by Cheri? Approved.

Minutes are subject to revision and are not approved until read/ratified by Ad Board members. Respectfully submitted by secretary pro-tem, Bill Stimeling

A special "THANK YOU" to Erv Larson, Bob Kunze, and Bob Zamsky for picking up and installing the new garage doors! Looks great and they will need painting in the spring as they just have gray primer on them now.

Missions Committee Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2019

Present: Mary Beede, Liz Dempsey, Pastor Paul Messmer, Cheryl Bingham

Reviewed minutes of our last meeting (September).

Thanks to Liz there are now 4 teen study Bibles (in the youth classroom) & one adult study Bible (in the adult classroom). They are available for anyone to use.

Liz has attempted to contact Odanah UMC without success. Per Mary, they have a phone number & Mary will sent it to Liz.

The mid-October through November Mission project is in progress to "Support Our Students". We are collecting items for the Holcombe school of items for students, as well as planning to send a card & package to each of our college students. We will plan to use special offering collected for UM Student Day to help with these projects. Thank you to all who have already donated items or funds for this.

Noisy bucket offering was not taken on UMW Sunday. Discussed taking 2 noisy bucket collections during November & group decided to just do the offering on the last Sunday per usual schedule. We were blessed to have Rev. Paul Webster with us on October 20th. We did not take a special offering that day but we would like to send him an honorarium of \$75 to thank him for preaching and sharing about his ministry. The group agreed to present this to the Administrative Board when they meet on Nov. 14th.

We agreed that the Noisy Bucket offerings will continue to be sent to support the project work of the agricultural center at Mujila Falls. The covenant agreement that has been used to support Rev. Webster's salary, while in Zambia, will now be used to support the salary for the new missionary there.

We discussed the need to request a small amount for Missions as a line-item when the 2021 budget is prepared.

Our December mission focus will be on the "Christmas family" which Jennifer will be coordinating. Starting in January we will be collecting warm socks, hats & gloves for those in need.

Much thanks to everyone for supporting the many mission projects done this year to support those in our community & around the world!

Seniors Christmas Dinner

The Seniors will meet on Tuesday, December 11th at noon. The meeting will be held at the Lion's Pavilion. There is a \$15 charge for the catered meal, the cost includes gratuity. Contact Mona Scharf at 715-595-4923, if you would like to attend this event.

And Now a Word From the Editor

By Travis Rogers, Jr.

A Christmas Madrigal Dinner in Holcombe

I have been trying to get to the Christmas Madrigal Dinner in Holcombe for several years now. Our Ladysmith/Bruce friends Arian and Arlene Knops told us about the dinner some time ago.

This year, Nicole and I got our tickets early (thanks to Arlene) and the Knops gathered a group of nine for the *Christmasse Feaste*. It was held at the Holcombe United Methodist Church and the sanctuary was transformed into a Medieval banquet hall.

We all tried to arrive at the same time, so that we could be seared together. Unfortunately for Gene and Karen, however, they hit a deer on the way in and had to limp home and exchange the car for their truck and come back.

When we presented our tickets, we had been asked to write our names and “titles” so that the crier could introduce us as we entered. I was “Lord Taters” and Nicole was “Lady Mash’em.” We got a good laugh from the crier after he read them aloud. I think Arian and Arlene were the only ones to laugh, otherwise. Southern humor, I guess.

After everyone was duly seated, the “Royal Court” entered and was seated at the high tables and sang “*Be Glad This Festive Day*.” The Friar offered a prayer and the singers sang the Latin hymn “*Confitemini Domino*.”

A couple of things. The singers were excellent. They were a community group and the church was simply the venue for the event. Also, the characters never broke character and stayed in time and in humor the whole time.

The Wassail Bowl was brought in and the Anglo-Saxon drinking pledge was offered. A soup of wild rice followed and then a “bowl of greens” was served. All delicious.

After a third fanfare, the Boar’s Head was brought in on the shoulders of two manservants accompanied by the singing of “*The Boar’s Head Carol*.” The boar’s head has several connections to English Christmas festivities and was a mainstay of Henry VIII’s Christmas feasts.

Then came the passing of the “*tastye dishe*” with an incredible strawberry salad, squash, cranberry relish, honey-glazed carrots, gravy and red potatoes, pork roast topped with warm apple sauce, and bread and butter. There was nothing that was not absolutely delicious.

During the meal, guests were advised not to “*pyck theyre teeth with a knyfe, strawe, or stycke*,” or “*leave bones on the tables; always hyde them under the chayres*,” and to by no means “*wype theyre greezy fingers on theyre beardes*.”

During the meal, the royal court, the jester, and a delightful hag worked their way among the guests. The hag was a long-standing actor named Gayla Harder from Eau Claire and was always in character and always on the make. I found myself wrapped in her eager embrace and Nicole was quick to snap photos. The evidence is probably on this page.

The Jester was a funny man named Keith Pitsch who proved over and over again that there is no such thing as a good pun.

Weaving in and out of the proceedings were The Pillagers, a quartet of barbarians who have spent years (seriously) trying to gain entrance and acceptance to the royal halls. One year, they tried to impress through synchronized swimming. This year, they recruited dining guests – including Bill from our nonet – to join them in a Boot Scoot Boogie. Hilarious and disastrous.

.....Continued from previous page

The Madrigal Singers delivered beautiful versions of "*Madrigal for Christmas*," "*O Come and Sing*," "*We Come to Sing This Holiday*," and "*Hang the Holly*."

After the main courses, flaming pudding was served up for dessert. Delicious.

As the evening wound down, the Friar began to read the Nativity texts. The Singers gave glorious versions of "*Salvation is Created*," "*All on a Wintry Night*," "*Et in Terra Pax*," "*Hodie Alleluia*" and finally, "*Silent Night*."

Here's the thing. I was all prepared to be entertained. I knew that we would be served a delicious meal. In fact, the meal itself was worth the price of admission.

But when the lessons were read and the final hymns being sung, the kitchen help (23 of them), the servers (23 of them also), and the Hag, the Crier, the Jester, and the Pillagers were lining the walls as a young couple brought in a baby like in a Medieval Mystery Play.

The music continued and I looked around. It struck me that the Hag stopped being a Hag, the Pillagers were no longer pillaging, in the presence of the Christ-child.

C.G. Jung was right. There is a deep need in us for the Divine Child.

HOLCOMBE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MADRIGAL, 2019

Holcombe United Methodist Church parishioners and friends are in the process of preparing the nineteenth annual *Madrigal Dinners to be held on December 14 and 15. *(Madrigal dinners were a means by which royalty or persons-of-station entertained their friends, often providing music as accompaniment to the meal. Madrigal Dinners developed into more than a meal during the 1500's when music became as important as the food!) Some say it's a lot of work, some know it's a lot of work, but everyone is enjoying the camaraderie while readying the event. The Holcombe United Methodist Church's "castle" will be assembled on December 8th and a Marketplace readied for guests who may browse or buy, prior to the 2½- hour performance. Eighteen singers, comprised of local and area church members, dear friends all, have been rehearsing for over four months. Music from the Renaissance period and selections from contemporary composers will be presented, interspersed with some hilarious "tomfoolery" by the court and suspicious "interlopers." Five courses of delicious food will be served by wenches and pages, each announced by a trumpet fanfare. Near the conclusion of the evening, illumination will be lowered and the Nativity story from the Gospel of Luke read by the Friar while selected songs related to the readings are performed.

Joni Weinert is serving as director of the production and Rhonda Mataczynski is director of singing. Kay Vaughn, Gloria Willmarth, Paula Pake and Mona Scharf are heading up the Kitchen crew. Over thirty individuals are involved in the preparation/serving of the meal each evening. Kay Vaughn and Paula Pake will also be decorating the interior of the "Castle" and Karen Stimeling will do likewise in the Marketplace. Mary Beede and Sue Crank will oversee the Marketplace, ably assisted by Liz Dempsey who will double as "greeter of guests." Church folks and area-artisans will display their wearable, decorative or edible wares in the Marketplace. The countdown to December 14/15 is on and excitement is building. What a wonderful way to celebrate Jesus' birth, breaking bread and spending an evening with other Christ- centered folks! " "Lords and ladies, hie thee to the hall!"

Holcombe United Methodist Women – December 18 Potluck and...

Notice this is the Wednesday following the Madrigal. For those who can make it earlier, we will be decorating the tree beginning around 9 a.m. At around 11:30 our annual potluck will begin as we celebrate the year and look forward to the beginning of a new year. Ladies, you are invited to join us for this fellowship time and thankfulness for the continued achievement of meeting our mission goals.



JOY IS HOLCOMBE'S ADVENT THEME

The birth of a King.....the King of Kings.....so come join each and every worship service celebrating the JOY of His coming. The choir music will be upbeat and we will sing our favorite hymns of this season.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – 7:30 P.M. – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Raise your voice, no matter what the sound that comes out, in joy filled praise. Share the JOY with this, our neighborhood, as we celebrate the most JOY-filled season of the year. Bring family and friends as our hearts are filled with Expectation.....with Hope.....with Peace.....with Joy.....and with Love as this season closes with the BIRTH OF THE KING.



New Year's Eve – Holcombe UMC 6:00 p.m.

WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK FOR?

It's POTLUCK and GAME night. You don't need to get all dressed up on this wintry New Year's Eve. Bring a dish to share and enjoy an evening of fellowship and good fun playing games – sometimes raucous, sometimes quietly strategizing your next move. Bring your favorite board game and celebrate a new and glorious year of hope for strengthening our nation, our church, our families and being there for our friends and neighbors. Delicious food, fellowship, fun and games.... and just think..... shorter road to entertainment. Good fun....good folks.....and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

2019 December Birthdays and Anniversaries!

Anson

5 Kathy Cernohous-Hauser
8 Ben Ginder
13 Jeri Dumholt
22 Chuck & Laura Boos
27 Brent McIlquham
28 Brian Crogg

Jim Falls

2 Justin Barkley
Steve Kressin
15 Dylan Smith
24 Joan Dunlap

Holcombe

4 Sue Dahlstrom
6 Dawn Rank
7 Max Sauerwein
Pete & Jean Wolfe
8 Ron Laudenslager
10 Matt Heidtke
12 Karlee Andres
Lauren Samardzich
13 Randy Crank
Ervin Larson
16 Catherine (Miller)
17 Jeff Durkee
18 Barb & Ken Flouro
20 Clarice Cote
25 Dick & Rochelle Catlin
Marge Evjen
28 Jim & Mary Beede
29 Claudette Smith
31 Clara Anders



December 2019

Anson, Holcombe, Jim Falls UMCs

H - Holcombe UMC, JF - Jim Falls UMC, A - Anson UMC, P - Pastor,
C - Charge, D - North West District, NW12 - North West Circuit 12,
AC - Wisconsin Annual Conference

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st Sunday of Advent Worship w/ Holy Communion 8:30a (H), 10a (JF), 11:15a (A) Adult Sunday School 10a (H)	2nd Advent Book Study (H) 12p Food Pantry (JF) 4-6p	3rd Men's Breakfast (H) 7:30a Worship Committee (H) 9a Lay Servant (C) 10a Advent Book Study (JF) 12p Missions (H) 1:30p	4th Choir Rehearsal (H) 5:00p	5th UMW (JF) 1p		7th Stained Glass Craft Fair (A) 9a-4p
8th 2nd Sunday of Advent Worship 8:30a (H), 10a (JF), 11:15a (A) Castle Up (H) Following service	9th Advent Book Study (H) 12p Food Pantry (JF) 4-6p	10th Advent Book Study (JF) 12p	11th Choir Rehearsal (H) 5:00p	12th Ad Board (H) 4:30p	13th Madrigal Dress Rehearsal (H) 6p	14th Madrigal Performance (H) 4p
15th 3rd Sunday of Advent Worship 8:30a (H), 10a (JF), 11:15a (A) Children's Sunday School 10a (H) Madrigal Performance (H) 4p	16th Advent Book Study (H) 12p Food Pantry (JF) 4-6p	17th Advent Book Study (JF) 12p Food Pantry (H) 2-5p NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	18th UMW Tree Decorating & Potluck (H) 9a & 11:30a Choir Rehearsal (H) 5:00p	19th	20th	21st Men's Breakfast (JF) 7:30a
22nd 4th Sunday of Advent Worship 8:30a (H) Adult Sunday School 10a (H) CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE For Jim Falls & Anson 5:30p (JF)	23rd Advent Book Study (H) 12p Food Pantry (JF) 4-6p	24th CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (H) 7:30p	25th CHRISTMAS DAY		27th	28th
29th 1st Sunday After Christmas Worship 11:15a (A) w/ Noisy Bucket Offering 8:30a (H), 10a (JF) Children's Sunday School 10a (H) Adult Sunday School 10a (H)	30th Food Pantry (JF) 4-6p	31st New Year's Eve Potluck and Game Night (H) 6p				

ANSON, HOLCOMBE, JIM FALLS UMC
27841 COUNTY HWY M
HOLCOMBE, WI 54745

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Lay Servants

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Bill and Karen Stimeling (HC), Ken Flouro (HC)

Lay member of Annual Conference

Bill Stimeling (HC)

The United Methodist Church

Wisconsin Area Bishop | Hee-Soo Jung
North West District Superintendent | Barb Certa-Werner

CHURCH INFORMATION

Holcombe UMC

Just west of Highway 27 on County M
Mail: 27841 County Highway M, Holcombe, WI 54745

Jim Falls UMC

County S South at 139th Avenue
Mail: 13883 County Highway S, Jim Falls, WI 54748

Anson UMC

9439 190th Street, Cadott, WI 54727
Mail: 13883 County Highway S, Jim Falls, WI 54748

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

HOLCOMBE 8:30 A.M.

JIM FALLS 10 A.M.

ANSON 11:15 A.M.