

# The Messenger

January 2025

Darlington United Methodist Church

Dave Bushfield, Pastor

Church phone: 765-794-4824 Website: [www.umcdarlington.org](http://www.umcdarlington.org)

P. O. Box 86, Darlington, IN 47940-0086

Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

Vision: By being a visible sign of restoration and hope in this community

**Open Hearts**

**Open Minds**

**Open Doors**

## Of Shepherd's Sharing:

Let the Bells Ring

January 2025

This past year I had the privilege to travel to Switzerland for a couple of weeks. I loved so many different parts of this great nation, but I believe one of the most impactful things was every day, twice a day, I would hear the bells ring at 7 am and 6 pm from the nearest church. They would ring for a long time it seemed. Beautiful melodies of bells chiming in unison made such a happy sound to me. I just couldn't help but smile as they played. The ringing of the bells was a reminder that God was with me and that the church was not far away.

Pastor Esther and I talked about the beauty of the sound and the significance of the reminder of God being with us and the Holy Spirit led us as we sat and laid out the ministry calendar for the next year, to have the theme...LET THE BELLS RING!

In the Bible, bells symbolize holiness. It is the Christian churches equivalent of Israel's military trumpets, where were used for signaling and assembling. There is also the practical side of bells being used for musical purposes.

The bells ringing are a great reminder that God is with us all...always!

In Isaiah 9:6, the prophet Isaiah rang the bells of Heaven and proclaimed that God would be known as "Wonderful Counsellor, The Mighty God. The Everlasting Father. The Prince of Peace." And these are all so true! God is all of these and more.

As we enter into a New Year together, I pray that two things can happen for each of you:

1. That you can hear the bells ringing all year long and take each moment and remember to give God praise and thanks. That you find ways to deepen your faith walk and journey.
2. That you find ways to ring the bells of your faith so that others may see and hear God through you. This may be done by actions, or words, but the important thing is that we allow the Holy Spirit to use us on this journey.

Eventually we all will hear the bell ring one last time, when we are called "home" at the conclusion of our race here on earth.

It used to be that every church had a church bell. But over time, this has gone away. When sharing my vision for this coming year, there was some "noise" that we may have to come up with a way to "ring the bell" so the community knows we are here. I don't know exactly how this will end up looking. But keep your ears open! You may just very well find yourself hearing the bells ring!

And when you do hear the bells ring...remember to thank God for the gift you have in your life.

Praying 2025 brings you all much joy and happiness.

~In Christ

**Pastor Dave**

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January 2025

Scripture Reading

January 5, 2025, Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

**Matthew 2:1-12**

**Sermon: Holy King Expectations**

January 12, 2025, Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

**Sermon: Remember Your Baptism**

January 19, 2025, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

**1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

John 2:1-11

**Sermon: Spirit Led**

January 26, 2025, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

**1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

Luke 4:14-21

**Sermon: The Greater Gift**

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*In-Person Worship Service - 9:00 a.m.*

*Fellowship Time - 10:00 a.m.*

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"Men are God's method. The church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men. What the church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men who the Holy Spirit can use - men of prayer. The Holy Spirit does not come on machinery but on men, men mighty in prayer. He does not anoint plans, but men - men of prayer.

- Edward"

Duke Taber

100 Christian Quotes by 10 Great Christians



## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday and a Happy Anniversary to all our members and friends who have birthdays or anniversaries this month. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

*May God lead you and guide you always.  
Long life is in your right hand;  
in your left hand are riches and honor.  
Proverbs 3:16*

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## Dates to Remember

New Year's Day	January 1
Epiphany	January 6
Newsletter Articles Due	January 18
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 20

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## Silly Dates to Remember

J.R.R. Tolkien Day	January 3
National Bubble Bath Day	January 8
Houseplant Appreciation Day	January 10
National Sticker Day	January 13
Winnie the Pooh Day	January 18
National Hugging Day	January 21
National Polka Dot Day	January 22
Clashing Clothes Day	January 23
National Compliment Day	January 24
Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day	January 27
Daisy Day	January 28
Backwards Day	January 31

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## Pastor Dave's Office Hours

Pastor Dave's Office Hours will be  
Wednesday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
or by appointment.

P. O. Box 121 (mailing address)  
207 W. Jackson Street  
Colfax, IN 46035-0121  
[dave.bushfield@inumc.org](mailto:dave.bushfield@inumc.org)

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## Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study



Even though we were studying the book of Ezra, we have paused after chapter 6 to find out what the prophets of the day are saying! They were sent by God to encourage the people. We all need a little encouragement now and then, so join us as we see who is speaking and how their words play out in our lives today. We are meeting at **9 every Wednesday morning** in the Fellowship Room. It is a great time of studying and sharing. The coffee awaits you! If you can't join, send me your email and I will forward the handouts to you if you'd like to participate from home. Feel free to text, call, or email me if you have any questions.

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## Poinsettias

Thank you for your help in giving the church a little pazazz during the holidays. We had enough left over to donate \$100 to the Grace Fund.

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## Announcements for the Bulletin

Please contact Dustin Gardner at 317-220-7667 or [dustin-gardner@gmail.com](mailto:dustin-gardner@gmail.com) by Wednesday, if you need any announcement included in the bulletin on the following Sunday morning.

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## Wheelchair Available



If anyone is in need of a wheelchair to get from the Lift Chair to the pew, one is available in the vestibule. Please ask and it will be made available to you.

Thank You.

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## The Five Fingers of Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct, and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble, or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much.
5. And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively. Remember 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says to "pray without ceasing."

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**Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.  
See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up!  
Do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the dessert  
and streams in the wasteland.  
Isaiah 43:18-19**

## C. S. Lewis

November 29, 1898 – November 22, 1963

Clive Staples Lewis was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1898 to a family of avid readers. Lewis, too, was soon immersed in literature: He started reading at just 3 years old, and by age 5, he had begun writing stories about a fantasy land populated by “dressed animals.”



Years later, a 19-year-old Lewis served in World War 1 with the Somerset Light infantry. He experienced trench warfare on the front line in the Somme, the horrors of which he carried with him for the rest of his life.

Lewis first met J.R.R. Tolkien in 1926, and the two men developed a lifelong friendship. Lewis, who had become an atheist early in life, found his way back to theism and Christianity under Tolkien's guidance. Tolkien, meanwhile, openly credited Lewis as a major source of creative encouragement: “Only from him,” wrote Tolkien, “did I ever get the idea that my ‘stuff’ could be more than a private hobby. But for his interest and unceasing eagerness for more I should never have brought *The Lord of the Rings* to a conclusion.”

Lewis himself was a prolific writer of both fiction and nonfiction. The latter included books and essays of Christian apologetics in which he passionately promotes and defends Christianity. Christian themes are also highly prevalent in his works of popular fiction which include *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Space Trilogy*, and most famously, *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

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## Noah's Ark

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...

**One:** Don't miss the boat.

**Two:** Remember that we are all in the same boat.

**Three:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

**Four:** Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

**Five:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

**Six:** Build your future on high ground.

**Seven:** For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

**Eight:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetah.

**Nine:** When you're stressed, float a while.

**Ten:** Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

**Eleven:** No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

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*You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you;  
I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you,  
in a dry and parched land where there is no water.  
Psalm 63:1*

## Church Business

### Ad Council

Six members were present when the meeting was called to order with prayer at 6 p.m. The minutes were approved as sent electronically.

Lay Servant/SPRT Chair reported the support system that SPRT has set up for the support staff is going well. We will have live streaming of the worship service again sometime after the first of the year. A praise was given for the 58 Cheer Plates that were delivered around the community.

Pastor Dave thanked everyone for the warm welcome he received when he came to fill in for Pastor Dirk and also when he was given the charge of Darlington UMC.

Incoming Worship Chair reported a meeting will be scheduled with the Worship Committee after the first of the year to plan out some of the special services we will be having.

Trustee Chair needs a list of the Trustees so he can call a meeting.

The Incoming Missions Chair and her committee will be reviewing the different Missions we support. They will make their recommendations for the year.

The Treasurer gave the Financial Report. He reviewed the October and November Financial Statements. Then he handed out the 2025 Estimated Proposed Budget. After some discussion, a motion to accept the 2025 Estimated Proposed Budget was made and seconded. The motion carried.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was closed with prayer.

Our next meeting will be on **February 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m.**

### SPRT Meeting – 5 p.m.

### Ad Council Meeting – 6 p.m.

February 10

April 14

June 9

August 11

October 13

December 8

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### Financial Report

Thank you for your blessed giving. Jesus is our shepherd and together we will become a strong body. Take time to reflect on what he endured for our salvation.

Dan Hampton, Treasurer

God is good – All the time.

All the time – God is good.

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*I know God has a plan.  
I pray for direction to follow it,  
patience to wait on it,  
and knowledge to know when it comes.*

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*The Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. Psalm 84:11*

Dear Lord, help me not to overlook the giving of thanks to you before I begin asking. Amen.



## Missions

We have several opportunities for you to get involved. Each opportunity is a wonderful way to reach out to the community around us. **But please, don't feel that you must be involved in every project that is offered.** Pick what you are passionate about and give whatever support you can. Thanks for your help.

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### Backpack Program

Come to the church basement any **Thursday at 9:30 a.m.** and help pack for the weekend.

We have sufficient funds for shopping for anyone wishing to help, so please contact Lynn Cox. Drinks and cereal deplete rapidly,

since we send out 47 boxes of milk and juice each week. Cereal in individually packed bags are also given out at that rate which this number fluctuates all the time.

Thank you to all for whatever help you have done or can do to help with this project.

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### PB&J Mission

**The need right now is more JELLY!**

We have become the "Peanut Butter and Jelly Church." We are providing our collected goods to the FISH Food Pantry and they have indicated they are always in need of peanut butter and jelly. They like grape jelly the best.

Thank You for your help.

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### Hygiene Bags.

We are collecting items for the hygiene bags for the school. This will be an on-going project because there is a real need at all the schools. You can place the items in drawers in the east Vestibule. All bags need the following:

Toothpaste	Toothbrush
Shampoo	Soap
Deodorant	Mouth Wash
Feminine Hygiene	

**These items need be small travel sizes please.**

Thank you for your help.

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### Bottle Caps for Benches

You know all those bottles with the lids you throw away. Benches are made from these lids. Save them, bring them to church, and they will be delivered. The caps cannot be any larger than 6". Don't put them in the recycle because they just throw them in the trash and you know where that goes – into huge trash hills that are becoming mountains right here in Indiana.



## Guatemalan Project



Here are just a few highlights of the past year that your generosity has made possible.

- **Medical Clinic:** Over **3600 patients** have been treated with loving, respectful and quality medical care, with over **5300 lab tests** being run in our on-site laboratory!
- **Nutrition Programs:** **132 children** aged 6 months to 6 years received nutritional support and specialized treatment from our clinic doctor! Parents have also been provided **health and nutrition workshops** throughout the year.
- **Education Support:** **81 students** of the 91 that began 2024 in our middle and high school scholarship program will successfully complete the year of study and **13 will graduate high school!** In our "Kematz'ib" computer academy, **117 students** have been enrolled in computer classes and **33 will graduate** this year!
- **Community Improvement:** In 2024, we welcomed **19 teams from 10 states to serve with us** in Guatemala!

But even as we celebrate all that has happened in 2024, our work is not finished! **With your support,** Mission Guatemala will continue to love and serve our neighbors here in Guatemala in the coming year!

**Thank you for being an answer to prayer for our sisters and brothers here in Guatemala! Thanks to YOU, lives are being changed!**

God bless you in the coming year.

*"May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."  
Numbers 6:24-26*

Doing all the good we can together...  
David Burns, Executive Director  
Leigh Randall, Director of Development



**Leigh Randall**  
Director of Development,  
Mission Guatemala  
1-800-563-8103  
[leigh@missionguatemala.org](mailto:leigh@missionguatemala.org)

## Project: Be a Fisherman

On the table in the front entrance we have placed some material that anyone can pick up. There are pamphlets, Daily Bread devotionals and crosses. These are materials you can hand out as you have an opportunity.

Denise Maxwell



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## National Safe Haven Alliance

### Kroger Community Rewards



The Kroger Family of Companies is committed to community engagement, positive social impact and charitable giving at the national and local levels. Every community is unique, but our common goal is to partner with the neighborhoods we serve and help the

people there live healthier lives.

One of the ways in which we do this is through our Kroger Community Rewards program. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Shopper's Card. Here's how it works:

**Whether you're a customer or an organization, get started today!**

Note: If you are a customer, make sure you have a preferred store selected to view participating organizations. If you are applying on behalf of an organization, please select a store in the same area as your organization.

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## Helping Each Other

Anne Cetas

**Always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:15**

Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:11-25

When playing basketball with her girlfriends, Amber realized her community could benefit from an all-female league. So she started a nonprofit organization to foster teamwork and impact the next generation. The leaders of Ladies Who Hoop strive to build confidence and charter in the women and girls and encourage them to become meaningful contributors to their local communities. One of the original players who now mentors other girls said, "There is so much camaraderie among us. This is something I'd been missing. We support each other in so many different ways. I love seeing the girls succeed and grow."

God intends His people to team up to help each other as well. The apostle Paul urged the Thessalonians to "encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). God has put us into the family of His people for support in our lives. We need each other to keep walking the path of life in Christ. Sometimes that may mean listening to someone who's struggling, providing for a practical need, or speaking a few words of encouragement. We can celebrate successes, offer a prayer for strength in a difficulty, or challenge each other to grow in faith. And in everything, we can "always strive to do what is good for each other" (v. 15).

What camaraderie we can enjoy as we team up with other believers in Jesus to keep trusting God together!

## God Finds Us Usable

Isn't it amazing to think that the God of the Universe finds us usable. He's given us specific gifts and abilities for reaching out to others. He could have chosen a thousand other ways to reach the unsaved, but the Lord picked us! Thank you for your service to our church.

## Liturgist

January 5

Dan Maxwell

January 12

Dan Hampton

January 19

Lynn Cox

January 26

Sarah Boeh

February 2

Diana Binford

February 9

Mary Lou Weliever

February 16

Dan Maxwell

February 23

Dan Hampton

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## Scripture Reader

January 5

Pam Crull

January 12

Cheryl Greene

January 19

John Wells

January 26

Kim Warren

February 2

Kathy Hampton

February 9

Steve Greene

February 16

Lynn Robison

February 23

Pam Crull

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## Fellowship

January 5

John and Marsha Wells

January 12

Mike and Kim Warren

January 19

David and Diana Binford

January 26

Dan and Kathy Hampton

February 2

OPEN

February 9

OPEN

February 16

Mike and Kim Warren

February 23

OPEN

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Perhaps when we come face to face with our Maker,  
we will not be asked, "How many positions did you hold?"

But rather, "How many people did you help?"

In reality, you cannot love the Lord  
until you serve Him by serving His people.

—Thomas S. Monson

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## Winter Garden

by Sudi Stuart Hager

What can a winter garden grow  
With frost-numbered earth, a crust of snow,  
And sleet-filled winds that lash and freeze?  
Alabaster ferns and grass,  
Flowers of opalescent glass,  
And pearl-branched, silver-fruited trees!



Please remember the following members and friends of our church family in your daily prayers.  
Thank you for your continued prayer.

**Praises**

Christ the Lord is Risen!!

- Colfax dinner church is going well
- CUMC cantata
- Many family gatherings
- New Bishop – Tracy Malone, enthusiastic and energetic
- Our church is beautiful
- Thorntown Nativity – beautiful message
- Wabash Christmas Program
- Christmas cheer plates were well-received

**Other prayer needs:**

- Children in backpack ministry – needs are met
- Community, State, Nation, World and all the leaders
- Darlington UMC, Colfax UMC, Christ UMC, and UMC at large, Congregational Church, and East Christian Church
- Families of those who have lost loved ones
- Farmers
- Our school children, teachers, support staff, and administrators
- Our college students
- Our Guatemalan children
- Our Guatemalan Project
- Those in foster care and all the challenges they face
- Victims of wild fires, floods, and tornadoes
- Victims of hate crimes and discrimination
- Victims in Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, Maui, Haiti, Israel

**Those in treatment or suffering with cancer.**

**Those Serving in the military:**

All those being deployed and all our military, home or overseas

**Those with other health**

**Our Shut-Ins**

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***Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,  
give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18***

Dear Father,

We lift up all those who are facing illness or other adversities in their bodies and minds today. We ask that you bring comfort, ace, and healing. Surround them with your love and touch their bodies with your healing hands.



Amen