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A Publication of Mediapolis and Sperry Global Methodist Churches

December 2024

Sperry

11756 Sperry Road
Sperry, IA 52650
9:00 AM Sunday Worship
10:15 AM Adult Small Group

Mediapolis

601 North Street
Mediapolis, IA 52637
9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Mailing Address

PO Box 38
Mediapolis, IA 52637

Office Telephone

319.394.3131
After hours emergency
phone number: 319.768.8593

Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday
9:00 AM—12:00 PM
1:30 PM—4:00 PM
Closed Mondays

E-mail

Office
mepomethch@mepotelco.net
Pastor Bruce Smith
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Web Site

www.mepochurch.com

Facebook

www.facebook.com/mepochurch
www.facebook.com/sperrychurch

This time last month, I mentioned we couldn't mistake the arrival of Autumn. I think it's safe to say we've tasted a bit of winter now, too. Speaking of tastes, I imagine you're working on finishing off those Thanksgiving leftovers and maybe even dabbling in a bit of Christmas baking. I know I am. I've had the most intriguing time of discovering low-carb options for some of my favorites this time of year. I've made keto, Scotcheroots, zero bread pizza crusts, low carb green bean casserole, and a whole host of other foods that are suitable for my diabetic journey. Food isn't the only thing on my mind as we find ourselves in December. With difficulties throughout any given year, sometimes people are just ready to get it over with and press on for the new year ahead. In other times, it seems like the year has gone so fast that we know December will be gone in a blink of an eye too, so we just accept it as a reality. I've got my sights on celebrating the birth of Jesus, though, and I don't want anything to rush that moment along. We have these themes in Advent of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, and so often we feel like it's a time to pause the feelings the previous year has left us with to celebrate these other things, but what if these other things are what help us work through the feelings of this previous year? What if we

center on all the promises of God we've experienced in Christ (and the promises we will experience) to help us get through the difficulties we've faced in the past months? What if we center on our "waiting in anticipation" for the arrival of Christ to help us understand why life feels so rushed that the year just "flew by?" What if we take this news of, "Peace on earth and goodwill toward men," and apply it to our embattled or strained relationships? There's some real potential in growing our faith with this kind of mindset. Life isn't as simple as putting our struggles aside to deal with hope, peace, joy, and love, because we're called into the fullness of these things right in the middle of our struggles and despite of our struggles. Our series in Advent is based off *The Chosen's, Holy Night*, and it's an invitation for us all to be able to do just that, to center on Christ as we see how God carries us through those struggles. Once our series is complete, we'll have an opportunity to watch the full episode, "Holy Night." Sperry will gather right after service on December 22, and Mediapolis will gather at 6 PM that night. Mark it on your calendars, and I look forward to being a part of the fellowship of that event as well as seeing you at our Christmas Eve celebrations.

In

Pastor Bruce Smith





I don't know about anyone else, but I find myself wondering what in the world happened to 2024. It seems impossible that we are entering into the advent season and the celebration of Christ's birth. This is my favorite time of the year and I love celebrating the hope that we have in Jesus! I am amazed however that an entire year has passed so quickly. There seem to be so many things to do during the month of December in preparation for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day but none of them are more important than being certain that the focus of our hearts and time are on the true meaning of our celebrations. Christ came to earth as a vulnerable baby to bring forgiveness, redemption, HOPE, and the promise of eternal life. I love to read the Christmas story from Luke and think about all that transpired leading up to and during His arrival. My heart also quickly turns to the fact that many people do not know Jesus and have not accepted Him as the son of God and our savior. God gives us opportunities to share the good news with others. My prayers and hope for each of us in the coming weeks are for hearts filled with love and wonder that Christ would come to earth for each of us and for all humanity who choose to believe. I pray as well that when we are given the chance to share the good news of Christmas with others

that we would boldly do just that and the seed that may be planted in the hearts of others through doing so would take root. Because we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves, I also hope that we have opportunities to show love and kindness to others by serving them in some way. Perhaps it is through donating to a local charity, food pantry, or through preparing freezer meals for our local homeless shelters. Perhaps it might include preparing and serving a meal at the local Hospice House or Salvation Army. Serving could include notes of encouragement to those who are in need or perhaps a visit or phone call to someone who may be homebound or in a nursing home. Whatever ways in which we choose to serve may God bless and encourage each of our hearts.

Merry Christmas!

Tracey

OLD STONE CHURCH
Christmas Service
Sunday, December 1st
2:00 PM
Refreshments & fellowship
will follow the service.

NEED PRAYER OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?

Organized prayer teams are available to minister to your needs. Please contact the church office with your prayer requests.

MEAL MINISTRY

The purpose of our Meal Ministry is to provide meals for families in our congregation who are recovering from an illness, surgery or childbirth. If you are aware of anyone who may need meals, please contact the church office.

Please call the church office if you or a family member will be admitted into the hospital.

Thank You!

Sunday Worship

IN PERSON

9:00AM @ Sperry
10:00AM @ Mediapolis

ONLINE

10:00AM
www.mepochurch.com/sermons.html
www.facebook.com/mepochurch

PARKING LOT

10:00AM
Mediapolis Methodist Church
(live only) over 87.9 FM

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Happy Holidays!

I pray each of you will be blessed this Christmas season as you marvel at all our Savior has done and is doing. All has been going well on Wednesday evenings at youth group. We will be wrapping up our Alpha series this month and jump into something new in January. All of our leaders have been giving their testimonies each week, which is moving for all who hear them. God is so good!

Please continue to pray for God's direction in where He would have us go for our mission trip in 2025. We are looking to help with hurricane disaster relief, but haven't hammered out the details yet. We are trusting that the Lord will work it all out and appreciate you joining with us in lifting this request up. We hope that it will all come together right after the holidays. Also, please pray for the students hearts to be moved if they are to attend, for calendars to be cleared and for finances to not be an issue. Thank you for partnering with us in prayer for this. Mission trips are a blessing to the students who attend and to those that we serve.

In His service,

Jenny McGhee, M CYG Director
319-752-7008 | MediapolisCommunityYouthGroup@gmail.com



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
CELEBRATE WITH US
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
5:30 PM @ Mediapolis
7:00 PM @ Sperry
11:00 PM @ Mediapolis



CHRISTMAS MOVIE Night
Sunday, December 22
MEDIAPOLIS: 6:00 PM
SPERRY: FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Mediapolis Sunday School
Christmas Program

Sunday, December 22
during the Worship Service

DECEMBER DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

One of the best ways to know God is to become acquainted with the full counsel of His written Word.
This reading plan will guide you through all 66 books of the Bible in the coming year

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | 1 Corinthians 10 – 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 | 1 Thessalonians 1 – 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 | 1 John 1 – 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | 1 Corinthians 14 – 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 | 2 Thessalonians 1 – 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 | 2 John 1; 3 John 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | 2 Corinthians 1 – 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 | 1 Timothy 1 – 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 | Luke 2:1 – 20; Jude 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | 2 Corinthians 5 – 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 | 2 Timothy 1 – 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 | Revelation 1 – 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | 2 Corinthians 10 – 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 | Titus 1 – 3; Philemon 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 | Revelation 5 – 9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | Galatians 1 – 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 | Hebrews 1 – 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 | Revelation 10 – 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | Galatians 4 – 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 | Hebrews 5 – 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 | Revelation 14 – 17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | Ephesians 1 – 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 | Hebrews 9 – 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 | Revelation 18 – 19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | Ephesians 4 – 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 | Hebrews 11 – 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 31 | Revelation 20 – 22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | Philippians 1 – 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 | James 1 – 5 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 | Colossians 1 – 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 | 1 Peter 1 – 5; 2 Peter 1 – 3 | | |

December

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

- 12/02 Tyler Aamodt
- 12/05 Kendra Meisgeier
- 12/07 Charlie Chenoweth
- 12/09 Bryce Klenk
Charles Powers
- 12/10 Mika Fowler
Peggy Hassett
- 12/12 Ben Carhoff
Graham Whitaker
Roger Wyss
- 12/13 Julie Moehle
- 12/15 John Delzell
Jacob Schnedler
- 12/16 Tracey Burgus
- 12/17 Jan Keitzer
Sandra Lord
- 12/18 Nathan Carhoff
- 12/23 Anna Dziulko
Diane Powers
- 12/24 Jane Crouch
- 12/26 Violet Houston
- 12/29 Wyatt Elder

Hark the Herald Angels sing



ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

- 12/04 Don & Jan Fischer
- 12/21 Corky & Wanda Cover
Brad & Jennifer Lane

This Month...

Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, Dec 01

Prayer Group @ Mediapolis
Tuesday, Dec 05 —6:30 PM

2nd Sunday Social @ Sperry
Sunday, Dec 08—Following the worship service

Sperry Women's Group
Wednesday, Dec 11—12:00 PM

Prayer Group @ Sperry
Thursday, Dec 11—6:15 PM

In case of bad weather, cancellations or changes to the service schedules will be posted on KBUR and on the home page of our church website www.mepochurch.com.