



**Lilian Gallo Seagren ~ District Superintendent**

**Sherry Swanson ~ District Administrative Assistant**

**District Office Hours ~ Monday-Thursday 8am-4:30pm, Friday 8am-Noon**

**Address: 1010 East Washington Street, Suite 101**

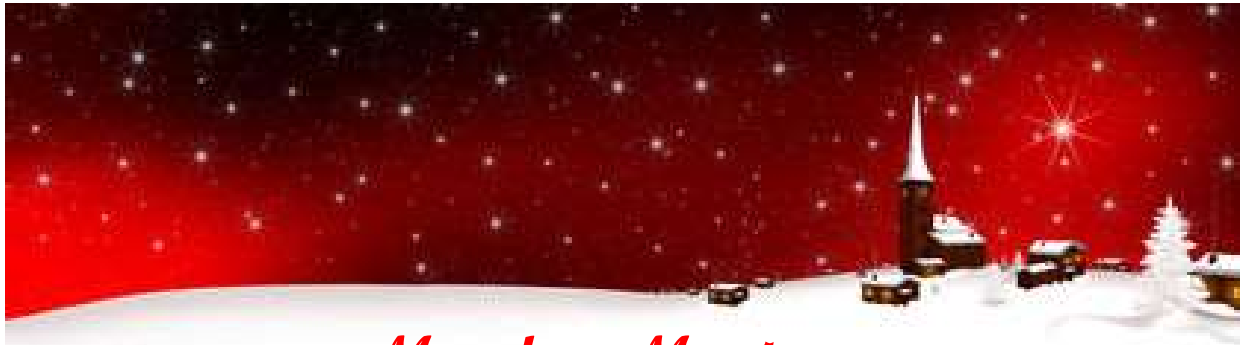
**Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641**

**Phone: 563-293-1361**

**District Homepage: <https://southeast.iaumc.org/>**

**Conference Vision ~ God's hope for the world made real through faithful leaders, fruitful communities, and fire-filled people.**

**Conference Mission ~ Inspire, equip, and connect communities of faith to cultivate world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ.**



## *Monday Musings*

*December 3, 2018*



*“Light the Advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun; we have started on our way, time to think of Christmas day. Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night; candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light. (Mary Lu Walker, Advent Candle Song, as found in The Faith We Sing, p. 2090.)”*

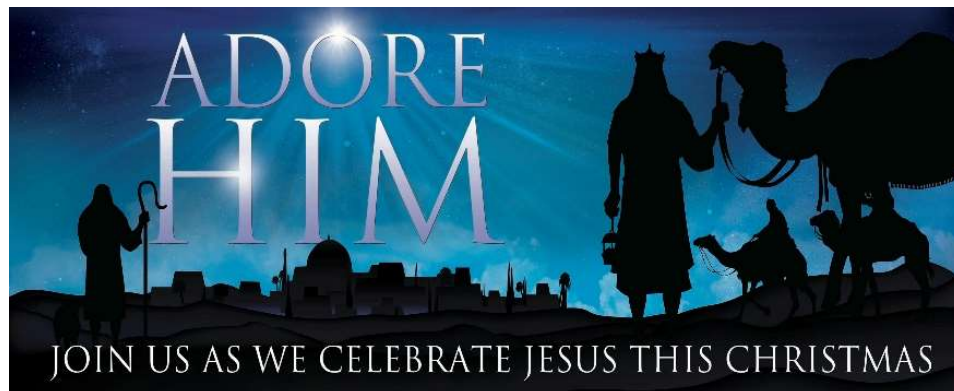
The Advent Season has arrived and the first candle was lit in Christian homes and churches. We have decorated our sanctuaries with years-old ornaments and decorations that have been handed down. Pondering on what this means to all of us who prepare and wait for the celebration of God’s fulfilled promises, I was

drawn to some treasures that are never out of season. Two of these treasures are our baptismal and membership vows. These are completely an “all season treasures” and we are invited to pay attention to how we have increased their spaces in our hearts and in our living.

These are some things that are never out of season; Blessing God’s world with our repentance and rejection of evil, injustice and oppression and our commitment to living with Christ faithfully, trusting in the abundance of His grace, and serving together in love; Blessing our Church this season with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

If you do not have a United Methodist Hymnal at home, make a copy of our baptismal and membership vows and include these in your Advent daily devotion. Keeping these at the center of our waiting and preparation are good to our wandering spirits.

Blessings,  
*Lilian*





>**December 8, 9:30am**~ District SLI/Operational Team will meet at the Southeast District Office.

>**December 9, 2:00pm**~ District Nominations & Leadership Committee will meet at Muscatine, Wesley.

>**December 13, 8:30am**~ dCOM Interviews will be held at the Southeast District Office. Soup will be provided for lunch. If the committee would like to bring a side to go with Chili and Chicken Noodles please do so.

>**January 6, 3:00pm** ~ Bi-County Church Leadership Training Event Coordinators/Facilitators meeting at the District Office in Mount Pleasant.

>**January 6, 4:30pm**~ Epiphany party at the Panda Kitchen in Mount Pleasant. This is for active and retired Clergy and families. Please notify the district office of your RSVP by January 2 so that we have an estimated headcount.

>**Budget Information Meeting**~ The Budget Team sent out an email that outlined their recommendations for the budget last Friday, November 30. They have set aside times for feedback and listening sessions. There are three dates and locations and they are as follows:

**January 13, 2019 ~ North Liberty UMC from 2:45pm-4:15pm**  
**-Lilian is encouraging Southeast District pastors and laity to attend this session instead of driving to the other locations.**

January 20, 2019 ~ Carroll, First UMC from 2:00pm-3:30pm

January 26, 2019 ~ Ames, First UMC from 10:30am-12:00 noon

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to communicate with the budget team you can contact them at this temporary email address, [budget@iaumc.org](mailto:budget@iaumc.org)

>**January 23, 11am-2:00pm**~ Clergy only prayer and discussion at the District Office with Lilian. Please RSVP to the District Office by January 14 so that we may look for a different location in a timely manner if there is more than 25 of you.

>**February 5, 2019**~ Clergy Day Apart is currently being planned by the Parish and Leadership Development Team. More details to come. If there is a need for a snow day it will be February 7, 2019.



>**Clergy Annual Conference Registrations** ~ I sent out an email to the clergy to get them registered for the 2019 Annual Conference. The form to fill out is listed under the District homepage under forms. This was due **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. **The following clergy need to fill this out ~ Dawn Butler, Tim Schoepf.** You can email them to me or send them to me in the mail, whichever is easiest for you. Any questions please contact Sherry Swanson at the SE District Office.

>**Charge Conference**~ Charge Conference paperwork is to be completed **1 week prior** to your scheduled Charge Conference. The church dashboard has the link to the Charge Conference paperwork as well as the Leadership Worksheet that must be filled out and signed at Charge Conference. There will be reminder emails sent out to make sure your paperwork is in on time. PLEASE BE DILIGENT with completing this on time. If you have any questions, please notify Sherry Swanson at the SE District Office. The following is the schedule for November. **The following church's have not turned in their paperwork ~ Fort Madison, Riverside Trinity, Keswick-Webster, Finley Chapel, Moscow, Wilton Peace.**

DECEMBER	BEFORE OR AFTER	3:00 PM	5:00pm	7:00pm	6:30 PM
Sun 2	<u>Muscatine, Musserville</u> San Pablo	Wilton			Island
Sat 8		Montrose, Ford Madison- <u>Donnellson</u> -Embury			Keokuk, Sandusky- <b>Keokuk, Melrose</b>
Sun 9	Walcott	Muscatine, Wesley			Wapello
Mon 10					<b>Keokuk, Trinity</b> - Emmanuel
Tues 11					Riverside, Trinity
Wed 12					<b>Keswick</b> -Webster
Thurs 13					Finley Chapel
Friday 14			Moscow & <b>Wilton, Peace</b>		
Sun 16		<b>Keosauqua</b> -Center Chapel-Birmingham- Stockport		<b>Crawfordsville</b> - Ainsworth	

>**Praying Our Way Forward**~ Praying Our Way Forward is a movement in response to the Council of Bishops initiative. We are called to a posture of prayer, praying for God's leadership to guide us effectively in fulfilling the mission of the church. We invite you- clergy and laity, conferences and congregations – across the denomination to pray for God's guidance. For more information please go to this link. <https://www.iaumc.org/prayingourwayforward>

>**Disaster Response Information**~ If Disaster happens... Contact Your District Disaster Response Coordinator or the District Office.

**District Disaster Response Coordinators (DDRC) ~**

**Southeast – Don and Mary Timmermann – [mtimmermannclm@aol.com](mailto:mtimmermannclm@aol.com) , 563-381-4848**



If you would like your connectional ministry to be posted please notify the District Office with information about your event. Thank you.



- 6 – Jeff Bixby
- 8 – Nancy Weingartner
- 16 – Tracey Burgus
- 25 – Sandra Berryman
- 29 – Diane Bales
- 30 – Jaeseong Lee
- 31 – Charles Klink

- 18 – Brian & Heather Oliver
- 30 – Carl & Luann Bengé

*If you have a prayer concern, a joy or you have updated information you'd like to share, please contact Sherry Swanson at the District Office.*



~Prayers please for the staff of Annual Conference as they come to terms with the recommendations of the Budget Team.

~Please pray for Pastor Melisa Bracht-Wagner and her family as she was informed that she has cancer. May God give them strength and may he wrap his healing arms around her and his comforting grace around her family.

~Prayers for the families affected by the tornadoes in Illinois.

~Prayers for the families of Alaska that were affected by the 7.0 earthquake that shook near Anchorage.

~Please pray for Christine, daughter of Mary Timmermann who continues to fight cancer

~Prayers for Elizabeth Colorado, wife of Pastor Moody Colorado as she continues to fight cancer. She is doing well with treatments.

~Prayers for Whitman Pounds, nephew of Pastor Nancy Sutherland, who is dealing with debilitating health issues.

~Prayers for the guidance and decisions that are being made in the United Methodist world. No matter the outcome, may we all remain followers of God and his teachings.

~Continuous prayers for our military men and women who are active, retired and veterans. May they find peace and understanding with the struggles of dealing with what they endure and have endured while serving.

~Continuous prayers for those who do not specifically ask for prayers but need them. Especially pray for the people of your church and surrounding area who are enduring struggles and sickness.

~Continuous prayers for our police, firemen and first responders who answer the call without hesitation and not knowing the situation they are coming into. May they find strength and courage to keep going when they are misjudged or not always supported.