



The Messenger

First United Methodist Church of Twin Falls 360 Shoshone St E, Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208)733-5872 tffumc@gmail.com www.tffumc.com

Pastor, the Reverend Philip J. Airhart

November 2011

Sunday Worship

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship 11:15 a.m.

Nursery Care Available
Handicapped Accessible / Elevator



Ministry Contacts & Staff

Church Administrator
Etha C

Lay Leader Ron J

Nursery Attendants
Charee S
Ashlee B
Christina M

Sound Technician
Greg P

Communicator
Eleanore B

Coordinator of Christian Ed.
Cathy P

Trustee Chair Verne S

Finance Chair Phil G

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chair
Bob P

Welcoming Carol J

Altar Guild Lou S
Joyce G

Outreach John and Colleen

Miriam's Circle Pat H

Ruth's Circle Doris R

Scouting Sharon B

Retro Christmas Bazaar

Saturday November 5th
10 a.m. until 2 p.m.



Free Church Tours

Lunch Served at 11:30 a.m.
BBQ pork sandwiches
Baked beans and coleslaw
Peach cobbler

Do your Christmas Shopping!
Homemade baked goods and
one of a kind gifts from your
favorite vendors!



RENOWNED CHRISTIAN
RECORDING ARTIST
**PAUL
SAIK**
IN CONCERT

Paul Saik could easily stand alone as a remarkable tenor whose power and passion create an exciting experience for a listener. However, his professionalism on both piano and organ make him a truly unique and amazing performer.
-Dr. Ginger Beasley
Ars Nova School of the Arts

Sunday, November 20, 2011
3:00 PM Christmas Concert

Twin Falls First United Methodist Church
360 Shoshone Street East, Twin Falls, ID

*A Love Offering Will Be Collected
For more information, please call 208-733-5872

We are excited to welcome Paul Saik back to Twin Falls.

Invite your friends!

Message from Pastor Phil

An “Advent of Thanksgiving” ... Or Is It “Thanksgiving for Advent?”

November is such an interesting month. Not only does it bring with it the full impact of fall – falling leaves along with falling temperatures – but the month also concludes with two very significant events in our church year: Thanksgiving Day, closely followed by the beginning of the season of Advent. This year, our National Day of Thanksgiving falls on Thursday, November 24, and the first Sunday of Advent follows three days later, on November 27.

There is something uniquely right and wonderful about the serendipitous juxtaposition of these two events. Thanksgiving Day is a timely reminder to us that our gratitude to God ought to extend to every day of the year, certainly – but coming when it does on the Christian calendar, immediately prior to our season of Advent, gives us a beautiful opportunity to get ready to express our gratitude and thanks for God’s greatest and most precious gift to humankind – the gift of the Christ Child.

The “Christ Event” requires a personal response from each of us, and that will be the theme of my Advent Sermon Series this year. Each of the four Sundays of Advent we will be examining an individual or group of individuals who are central to the story of the Christ Event, and how those individuals chose

to respond to this greatest demonstration of God’s love. Their response – I hope and pray – will be for us an inspiration for our own response. I hope that you will plan to be in worship for each of these four significant and important Sundays.

In addition to our worship times together during Advent, I will also be leading a Wednesday afternoon Advent Study entitled *The Journey*. This study features video segments filmed by Rev. Adam Hamilton in the Holy Land, and helps us see and experience the wonder of the Christ Event through the eyes of the original participants. We’ll begin with a lunch at 12:00 noon, and conclude by 2:00 p.m. This study series begins on Wednesday, November 23. There are study books and a signup sheet on a table directly across from the office door. I believe this study could be the best thing you do this Advent season! Make sure you sign up early, and start reading the book so you’ll be fully prepared once the study begins.

Laurie joins me in wishing for you and your loved ones a joyful and blessed Thanksgiving, and an Advent season full of hope and anticipation!

In Christ’s love – and mine,

Pastor Phil

Stewardship Campaign

This year the Stewardship Campaign will be very different than what we have experienced in the past. This year we will focus on the broader definition of stewardship used when members join The United Methodist Church.

Stewardship is about much more than giving money to the church; stewardship is about how we live our lives in response to all God’s blessings to us. We respond to God’s gifts in a variety of ways and this year we will spend the Sundays of Advent exploring them. Our hope is that each of us will spend time during each week thinking about our response.

On the final Sunday of Advent, December 18th, we will participate in *Response and Commitment Sunday*. A commitment card will be in each bulletin and we will take some time during worship to fill out the card and then bring it to the altar.

A letter and commitment card will be mailed to those who are not able to be with us on December 18th so they can share their responses.

Remember, stewardship is about much more than money and church budgets.

The Finance Committee

Bible Sunday

Bible Sunday was founded in 1915 by the American Bible Society, and traditionally observed on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. It has been celebrated by thousands of church families as a means of engaging God through His word and advocating for the Bible. Our church has participated in this celebration for many years, with much thanks to Lorayne Smith for organizing and promoting it.

Currently Bible Sunday is being used as a ministry tool to help churches launch a 40-day Scripture journey, so they can meaningfully engage with God's Word and experience its life-changing message. Bible Sunday is uniquely designed to help churches mobilize to develop life-long habits of daily Scripture engagement. While some churches still launch this in November, the American Bible Society encourages churches to use this program when it fits their schedule. Our church has no current plans to begin this scripture study but if anyone is interested in knowing more about it or leading it, please visit with Pastor Phil or email the church office.

On November 13th our congregation will celebrate our own Bible Sunday. We will emphasize how important regular Bible study is for every Christian. Members of our congre-

gation study the Bible in a variety of ways; some read daily on their own, some follow a printed schedule of reading, some participate in short term studies or Disciple Bible Study. We may not all study the same way, but we share enthusiasm for its message.

This Bible Sunday we are encouraging everyone to spend some time in the coming year reading and studying the Bible. If you are unsure where to begin, the American Bible Society web page has 72 choices of Bible Journeys on their web site. Whether it's a daily or weekly e-mail Bible study, audio, print, or a text message, you can explore the eternal truths of the Bible in the way that best fits your life. With a variety of topics to choose from, each journey contains verses and Bible studies each day of your journey—making God's Word relevant and personal to you. Some topics include Faith, Grace, God's Goodness, Peace, Grief, Fear, Doubt, and Bible Introduction. If you usually read the Bible with a "daily Bible reading plan" this is now available online at the American Bible Society where you can sign up and the plan is emailed to you each day. If you need advice or assistance in getting started with one of the Bible Journeys online, contact Etha in the church office or Pastor Phil.

THIS SEASON...

MY RESPONSE TO THE CHRIST EVENT



MARY,
THE SHEPHERDS,
THE ANGELS,
THE MAGI
RESPONDED TO THE CHRIST EVENT.

THIS YEAR, HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?

SERMON SERIES BEGINS NOVEMBER 27TH

Christian Education

Rumors of God

**Book Study for adults on
Sunday Mornings after
Worship!**

Rumors of God is a call to Christians seeking a vision of the life God is calling them to, one that transcends the shallowness of our culture.

In his classic work, *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis likens an encounter with God to coming to life: "This world is a great sculptor's shop and we are the statues. But there is a rumor going round the shop that some of us are some day going to come to life."

However, today many Christians live with tension. What the Scriptures promise seems like a far cry from what we experience in our lives. As a result, God seems distant, and the life described in the Scriptures seems more like a series of rumors than reality.

Does God still do great things today? Is it possible to really experience Him? Can we close the gap between what we hear and what we see?

Rumors of God is a rally cry for the church. Authors Darren Whitehead and Jon Tyson share compelling stories about the work and activity of God today. Packed with fresh cultural observations and illuminating Scriptural insights, *Rumors of God* will ignite a passion in your heart to see your faith come to life.

Join Phyllis B. in the Library after about 10 minutes after Worship to share insights from this inspiring book. Classes began October 23rd, but you may join us anytime. Books are available in class or from the church office.

Advent Study - begins Nov. 23rd *The Journey Walking the Road to Bethlehem*

Join Pastor Phil in the Library each Wednesday at Noon for lunch and discussion of Adam Hamilton's new book.

Abingdon Press asks us to "Journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Hamilton approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road."

Books are available in the Friendship Room, so you can start reading before class. A sign up sheet is also available so we have an idea on how much food to prepare for lunch.

Children's Sunday School

The children will be learning stories of praise. The B.I.G Idea is "We believe that stories about praise teach us many different ways to praise God." Psalm 148 and 150 will be looked at. Before the month ends the children will begin working on a Christmas program.



Scouting Ministry

The Cub Scouts thank you for purchasing popcorn from our Pack. The proceeds of the popcorn sale allows us to go camping, hiking, fishing, and attend summer day camp. We appreciate your support.

Three Boy Scouts recently passed Board of Review and received their Tenderfoot rank. They are working hard toward the next rank and hope to have it completed by December.

The Girl Scouts continue to meet on a regular basis and are learning many useful skills.



Roof Update

Work on the roof over the Education Wing is complete. A new roof was installed and the skylights were removed. The cost was \$30,470. We have received donations of \$9,700 which includes the proceeds of the rummage sale. The balance has been paid

from our Greenslate Funds. Donations designated for the roof are still welcome and will be used to replenish the Greenslate fund.

The church is grateful to everyone who donated funds, rummage, or time toward this project. A huge thank you to all of you.

Mission Opportunities

Advent Project for Crisis Center

Each year our congregation supports the Crisis Center during Advent by collecting items they need. The Outreach Committee encourages our members and church family to help by purchasing a few items while we are shopping for the holidays. Bring the items to church each week of Advent and the members of Outreach will get it to the Crisis Center.

Take this list with you when you do your holiday shopping. It might be the best gift you purchase this year!

Paper Products:

- toilet paper
- paper towels
- napkins
- zipper baggies

Cleaning Supplies:

- liquid hand soap
- scouring pads
- kitchen sponges
- general cleaning supplies
- powdered laundry soap
- dryer sheets

Personal Items:

- disposable razors
- deodorant
- shampoo
- conditioner
- feminine products (tampons & pads)
- hair brushes
- baby care items

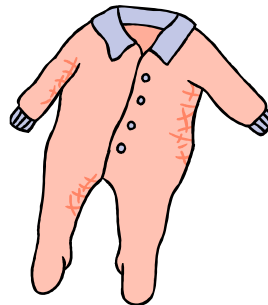
Other:

- gloves (for handling food)
- packing tape
- journals
- sweatpants
- sweatshirts

Food Drive – November 6 Support the Crisis Center

The Crisis Center of Magic Valley, Inc. has been providing supportive services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault for over 25 years in the eight counties of South Central Idaho that is called "Magic Valley. The goal of the Crisis Center of Magic Valley is to rebuild lives by providing resources and tools to establish independence and freedom from abuse.

Each month our church collects food for one of six Twin Falls service providers. You can support this effort by bringing a bag of groceries on the first Sunday of every month.



Children's Sleepers Needed

The Outreach Team is collecting sleepers for South Central Community Action. With cooler temperatures at night, children need sleepers to stay warm in houses that are very cool. Bring new or gently used sleepers to the Friendship Room before November 20th.

Contact: Sheila Erling (734-4378)

Paul Saik Concert

We are excited to welcome Paul Saik back to Twin Falls on November 20th for a Christmas concert. Paul will join us at worship at 10 a.m. The concert will begin at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary. Bring your friends and family!

About Paul Saik: Every life has a purpose. From the time Paul was a small child, he has touched the lives of many with his talents and love of music. An accomplished vocalist and pianist, Paul is living his purpose with every breath and every step...armed with a passion for sacred music and a sincere desire to reach others with the powerful message of Christ's love.

Paul is the Artist in Residence at his home church, The Cathedral of the Rockies, First United Methodist Church, in Boise, Idaho. He does special musical performances, as well as performs at special events.

His passion is leading people in worship, and his music has touched many people, as he has performed in numerous churches throughout the country. His concerts are a unique journey through his life as he performs various styles of music. You can hear everything from opera, Broadway, organ, piano and vocal solos. But everything leads to his desire to bring comfort, guidance and the presence of God to each listener, so that they may know that God truly loves them. "I don't know why God has blessed me with the talents He has, just as He blesses every person with their own...but I want to use them to honor Him, to thank Him, to lead others in worshipping Him. My prayer is that all who see how I live my life, find Him in me."

To hear a sample of Paul's music and to learn more visit his web site at www.paulsaik.com

CATCH – What's Next

In October the people who participated in the CATCH study shared what they learned with the congregation. Those attending were asked to answer a few questions. The responses have been reviewed by the CATCH participants and a few things were apparent: response to the mission statement was generally good and a willingness to support a change in how we welcome visitors and interact with each other.

Over the next few months we will share the mission statement in several ways. It may be refined as we listen for God's message to TFFUMC. One thing is certain: you will be seeing and hearing this statement. As you

spend time in prayer, remember to reflect on this statement and ask for God's guidance as our church moves forward.

Along with our focus on living up to our mission statement, several members of our church will be participating in the *Congregational Leadership Development* study. This six month study is being led by Rev. Gary Ross from Crossroads UMC and Assistant to the Bishop, Kim Fields. You will hear more about this study in the coming months. If you are passionate about the future of our church and interested in being part of this study, please visit with Pastor Phil or Ron J.

Our Mission Statement

Twin Falls First United Methodist Church is an open Christian community, inviting and welcoming all people to discover and explore their faith in the loving Jesus Christ who empowers us to serve others.



AT TFFUMC

WE:

Welcome All

Discover
Jesus' Love

Explore Faith

Serve Others



Book Club
November 10
7:30 p.m. at
Zulu's Upstairs
(on Addison)

Our suggested read for the month is Corrine's pick *The Tiger's Wife* by Téa Obreht . It is a fascinating read about the death of a woman's grandfather and the death of a country as well. Questions, contact the church office.

Misc. Announcements

Round tables, chairs, and some rectangular tables are kept in the Janitor's Room on the basement level. A key to the Janitor's room is hanging on a nail above the door to the room. The room is locked to keep small children safe. Other tables and chairs are kept in one of the rooms off of the main Retreat Center room.

See Church Website for updated information. A building use calendar and updated information are available on our website at www.tffumc.com.

We have minimal custodial service each week; each group or individual using the church is asked to clean up after an event or meeting. This includes taking care of the trash, wiping tables, sweeping, mopping, vacuuming and taking out the trash. Cleaning items are kept in the cupboards near the nursery and in the janitor's room on the basement level.

Please label all food items left in the refrigerators. Items not labeled will be thrown away on the 10th of each month. Labels and pens are available in the drawers near the refrigerators. If your group has used the refrigerator in the past month, please check for any leftovers and take care of them.

The large cooler in the kitchen has been unplugged to save energy. If you are holding an event that requires use of the cooler, please plug it in. You will need to watch it carefully as it tends to freeze.

Deadline for Bulletin and Newsletter. Items for the bulletin calendar, prayer requests, or weekly announcements are due in the church office each Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Items for the monthly newsletter are due in the church office by the 20th of each month.

Church Office Hours are 9 a.m. to 12 noon Monday through Friday. Church staff will be working other hours as needed to complete administrative tasks. Please leave a message if your call is not answered. The staff will return calls as soon as possible

First United Methodist Church
360 Shoshone Street East
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

Upcoming Events...

Bazaar	Nov. 5
Bible Sunday	Nov. 13
Paul Saik Holiday Concert	Nov. 20
<i>The Journey</i> study	Nov. 23
Thanksgiving (office closed)	Nov. 24
Advent begins	Nov. 27
Children's Program	Dec. 11
Response & Commitment Sunday	Dec. 18
Christmas Eve Services	Dec. 24



TWIN FALLS FIRST United Methodist Church



Receive "The Messenger" via email. If you wish to receive the monthly newsletter via email please advise the church office of your current email address.

See Church Website for updated information. A building use calendar and updated information is available on our website at www.tffumc.com.

"Like" us on Facebook. We now have a Facebook page. Like us and check out our events. Share us with your friends.