

# **Tipton First United Methodist Church**

607 Lynn Street Tipton, IA 52772

563.886.2331

www.tiptonumc.org  
office@tiptonumc.org



Melody Williams, Pastor  
815.656.0565

December 2023

## **Church Staff**

Pastor – **Melody Williams**

Administrative Ministries

Coordinator – **Mary Jo Heil**

Custodian – **Sandy Brown**

Chancel Choir

Director – **Lorna Muller**

Piano/Organ – **Jo Brown,  
Dee Wallace**

Little Friends Preschool

Director and Teacher –

**Daisy Little**

Xn Chaos Director –

**Greg Brown**

Bishop of the Iowa Annual

Conference –

**Kennetha Bigham-Tsai**

Pictured Rocks Superintendent –

**Rev. Dr. Moody Colorado**

Ministers of Jesus Christ in the

World – **All the People of God!**



## **Advent Study**

Pastor Melody has put together a study for Advent. If you are interested, the Thursday morning GIG will be doing this; all are welcome. If this time doesn't work, talk to Pastor Melody or call the church office and we can create a new group. Don't have time to meet with a group? This is a study you can do on your own. Call the church office for a copy of the study.

***Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year***

From Your Church Staff

**Pastor Melody • Brian Heil • Lorna Muller  
Greg Brown • Jo Brown • Sandy Brown  
Dee Wallace • Daisy Little • Mary Jo Heil**



Making a Smart Investment for the  
Next Congregation

Total donations & pledges as of Nov. 27 – \$63,797.81

**Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors**

## A Word From Pastor Melody

I confess. I have been trying to get to sleep for the last two hours. God keeps bringing this parable you are about to read to mind. I have not studied this parable lately. It is not one that I have in any upcoming sermon series. But God has it seared into my brain—these ten virgins waiting for the bridegroom. Please read the scripture. Read it with a mind to summarize Jesus' words in your own words.

*"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." —Matthew 25:1–13 (ESV)*

Take time to write your summary. Take time to answer these questions. What did you learn about God? What did you learn about people? What do you feel God is telling you? What are you going to do with it?

The story of the ten virgins is a window into preparation, of being ready for Christ's return—Jesus is the bridegroom. We are reminded to be prepared instead of relying on someone else's readiness. As a pastor, these words bring a level of conviction—asking me how I am preparing those I lead to be people to be ready for the time all of us will one day meet Christ. That time may be when we face earthly death or it may be when Christ returns. But, there is more to it. How are we presenting Christ to the world as we live—how does the light of Christ shine from us? Are our lamps filled with oil, lit, and ready to shine into the darkness?

How am I leading you to a place where faith is alive within you?

I find it easy to tell people things, voice my opinion, and tell others how God has been speaking to me. But, my relationship with Christ will mean nothing when you meet Christ face to face. That day will not be the time to follow anyone else's faith. Your faith has to be that—your own. Which of the ten virgins do you want to be on the day you meet Christ? What can I do to aid you in your preparation? I know I can't fill your oil lamps—that takes your commitment to your relationship. Your lamps can only be filled with your time sitting at the feet of Jesus. I can give you tools to help you fill your lamps. The tools are yours to use. As you use those tools, your lamps will fill.

The time of preparation is here. How are you preparing?

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Dear Church Family

Approximately a year and a half ago we were struggling in our church with no pastor to serve us, and very few members attending our services. We pulled together with hard work, hope, and prayer. Pastor Paul and Jane agreed to come and serve with us for three months hoping to prepare us, as it was evident that we were not going to be appointed a new pastor in the coming year.

Once again, we pulled together with hard work, hope, and prayer. Unexpected circumstances fell into place and we received a new pastor, not only willing to take on our church, but move into our town and become a part of our community. Her dedication and total love of Christ has swept through our church filling us with hope for our future. We have worked so hard to bring our youth back into our fold, and I truly believe we will reach our goal of being able to afford to hire someone equipped to work with our young people. So many of you are making it possible for our church to thrive and grow for our next congregation.

Unfortunately, our work is not done. I am asking each one of us to again search our hearts and reach out to Christ in prayer. Our apportionments are due at the end of this year and we are still in need of \$13,896. It is an obligation we pledge as members of the United Methodist Church. If you are able to help, just make a notation on the memo line on your check or mark your envelope "apportionments". I am so proud of our congregation; we are truly a family in Christ who love and support each other. I thank each one of you in advance for your prayerful consideration. Ginny Cummins, Finance Chairperson

## Missions

### Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas offerings will go to purchasing hats, gloves, and coats for those in need. We will also be collecting these items. There will be a donation box in the Gathering Place.

To donate, you may write "Christmas Offering" on your check memo line and drop it in the plate on Sunday or leave it in the church office or mail slot. We will also be designating the Copper Kettle offerings from December to this.

### Angel Tree

Our church often receives requests for assistance throughout the year from families or individuals in need. Once again we have the opportunity to assist these local families needing assistance by purchasing specific gift requests. The Angel Tree will be placed in the Gathering Place and have gift tags with requested items along with the age of the girl or boy/mom or dad. If you take a tag, please wrap the gift, place the tag on it and return it to the tree in the Gathering Place by December 17.

As you make plans for Christmas, prayerfully consider including the Angel Tree as part of your plans as you are able.

### Missions Annual Soup Lunch and Auction

Thank you to everyone who joined us for soup and then the auction on November 12. It was a great day filled with food, fun, and best of all fellowship! \$393 was donated at the soup lunch; those funds will be used for Career and College Connections. The auction raised \$4,326.50 and that money will be used for scholarships to send kids to camp.



[www.tiptonumc.org](http://www.tiptonumc.org)



**Changing our Community  
with Compassion**

Saturday, Dec. 9  
Saturday, Dec. 23  
11:00-11:45 am



**HACAP Mobile Food Truck**

**Tipton FUMC**

**Friday, Dec. 8**

**West Branch Fire Station**

**Tuesday, Dec. 19**

**Questions?**

Call the HACAP Food  
Reservoir (319) 393-7811  
or the Church office  
(563) 886-2331

Income Eligibility  
Guidelines Apply

[www.hacap.org](http://www.hacap.org)

**First UCC Food Pantry**

**Wednesday, Dec. 13**

**Wednesday, Dec. 27**

**3:30-5:30 pm**

**Calvary Foursquare  
Food Pantry**

**Saturday, Dec. 16**

**9-10 am**





## The Rock Band

The youth group making music will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month in the large Sunday school room from 6:30–7:45 pm.

## Abigail Circle

will be meeting on **Dec. 20 @ 2 pm** at Sylvia Ferguson's

All women of the church are invited!



venmo

## The Next Congregation

Need an easy way to make a donation to the Next Congregation?

Scan the Venmo QR code above for an easy way to make a donation.

**The Next Congregation** will be offering gift wrapping services and decorating during the holidays.

If you would like to have your gifts wrapped or your house decorated, contact Aubrey Gradert, Holly Schott, any of our youth, or call the church office.



## Let's Get Together! And Sing a Joyful Song!

We need you to complete our choir! We welcome high school through age 100. Please consider joining the church choir!

The choir rehearses on Thursdays at 6:30 pm, just 2 times a month, and sing 2 times a month. You do not need to read music to sing with us.

Contact Lorna Muller if interested or just show up at rehearsal.

## Christmas Musical Performance

Sunday, December 3 @ 2 pm

### Rochester Methodist Church

This is a free event! All are invited! Come and enjoy an afternoon filled with the beautiful sounds of Christmas!

## Ushering Out The Old Year Huddle

Here we go again; December has 5 Sunday's so that means it is Huddle time again! Instead of doing breakfast on New Year's eve day, how about a new years afternoon party. From 2 to 4 pm come to the church and enjoy food and have some fun. Our youth will be in charge of games for all ages. We ask that you bring snacks or party foods to share. Mark your calendar for December 31 to come for an enjoyable time with family and friends. And don't forget the food!!



## October Huddle

For the October 29 Church Family Huddle we played with the guts of a pumpkin. The slimy insides of a pumpkin reminds us of all the bad things we have done and keep hidden inside. God does not like that and neither should we. As we throw away the slimy guts of the pumpkin, let us also throw away bad things we have kept inside of us. Tell God we are sorry for the wrong we have done and he will forgive us.

Approximately 40 people enjoyed 3 different egg casseroles and a variety of coffee cakes and breads. Thank you to Ann Neville, Bob and Becky Young, Wayne Hunt, Mary Jo Heil, and Pastor Melody for taking charge.

October 1 Balance	\$12,938.74
<b>Income</b>	
Contributions	\$11,146.45
<b>Expenses</b>	
Salaries/Pension/Taxes	\$11,720.75
Utilities – Church/Parsonage	\$543.94
Phone/Internet	\$152.54
Copier Lease	\$158.57
Payroll Processing	\$175.00
Postage	\$41.96
Maintenance/Repair	\$347.50
Office Supplies	\$78.09
Insurance	\$2,745.75
Upper Room/GIG Books	\$0.43
Staff Training	\$150.00
Background Checks	\$195.00
Worship Supplies	\$65.00
Pastor Mileage	\$114.63
Pastor Cont. Ed	\$390.00
November 1 Balance	\$7,206.03
<b>Apportionments</b>	
Total for 2023	\$25,396.00
Paid to Date	\$11,500.00
Yet to Be Paid	\$13,896.00
<b>Worship Attendance</b>	
Oct. 1 – 64, Oct. 8 – 54, Oct. 15 – 62,	
Oct. 22 – 59, Oct. 29 – 62	

*The thrill of hope,  
the weary world rejoices!*

## Fellowship Coffee

We are moving Coffee Fellowship to the dining room. It is beautifully decorated for fall thanks to Gail Fleming with help from the young members of the Chris and Kiley Schultz family!

I will be in AZ from mid December to the end of March. So I need a volunteer to take my place during that time. Please let me or the office know if you would be willing to help. Also, it would be so helpful if we could have the sign up sheets filled in with servers before I leave.

Thank you to those who have been preparing coffee and treats! We all appreciate it! If you want to help out but have questions as to where items are located please contact me at bbyoung49@gmail.com or 563-357-1245.  
Becky Young

**Scholarship Applications Are Now Being Accepted!** Iowa United Methodist Foundation Scholarships open for applications December 1st! We offer over 100 scholarships to UM students in Iowa, and applications are accepted Dec. 1–Mar. 1 annually. Starting Dec. 1st, there will be a red APPLY NOW button on our page that will take you to a third party site to apply. As we get ready to launch scholarship season, we encourage you to visit our website and see the different types of scholarships we offer. Email [cassie.parks@iumf.org](mailto:cassie.parks@iumf.org) with questions.

## Carroll Mitchell Scholarship

You may start applying for the Carroll Mitchell scholarships. There are two scholarships available.

Application opens up December 1. Applicant must be a member or constituent of Tipton United Methodist Church. All ages and levels beyond high school are encouraged to apply, but graduating high school seniors will be given preference. (\$1,400 – 1 awarded per year)

The second is a Carol Mitchell Ministry Scholarship and is for any member or constituent of Tipton United Methodist Church and must have a degree in Christian Ministry or be attending or planning to attend seminary. (\$2,100 – 1 awarded per year)

For more information or go to <https://iumf.org/scholarships/um-college-scholarships/>



- 1 – Phillip Hargrave, Kinley Williams
- 3 – Abby Cummins-VanScoy
- 5 – Mike Eisele, Teri Ford
- 6 – Morgan Lanning
- 7 – Amanda Paul
- 9 – Mark Lukemyres
- 10 – Chris McKinney
- 12 – Ken & Deb McKay
- 13 – Nancy Burroughs, Bruce Wentzel
- 14 – Dawson Mente, Judy Ohrt, Colbie Schultz
- 15 – Adam Calonder
- 16 – Kingston Person
- 17 – Kris Kuehl, Dustin Morden
- 18 – Jim Jorgensen, Caden Schultz, Keaton Schultz, Kim & Nate Anderson
- 19 – Lonnie Krenz
- 20 – Drew Oberfrank, Jada Schmidt, Josie Slach
- 21 – Steven Eiler, Derek Nebergall, Lea Stonebraker
- 23 – Cameron Wallick, Ray & Judy Linder
- 24 – Scott Anderson
- 25 – Allan Baird, Ron Burroughs
- 26 – Greg Royer, Ryne Schroeder
- 27 – Corina Lanning, Judy Rouse
- 28 – Les Boots, Tucker Ormsby
- 29 – Marjorie Stonerook
- 30 – Jenny Boldt, Carly Paustian, Mike & Connie Semotan
- 31 – Lisa Allen, Noah Johnson, Jen Royer, Irene Wood



Thank you for the birthday card and gift of the Walmart gift card!  
Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

**Sara Webb**

Wartburg College—Class of 2024  
Biology, Pre-Veterinary Medicine

**Healing:** Ken McKay, Chris Edwards (Pastor Melody's brother), Alberta Wagaman, Bob Rickard, Betty Orr (Greg Brown's aunt), Deb Lowry, Carolyn Wood, Irene Wood, Glenn Fear, Jo Ann Beers, Nick Brown, Glenn Eaton, Bob Gould, half-brother and nephew of Deb Lowry, Randy Nau

**Individuals and Families Experiencing Loss:**

**Prayers for Those in Life Transitions:**

Helen Timm, Carolyn Wood, Ken Gould, Rhonda Waugh, Denise Cartwright, Lynn McIntosh

**In Treatment:** Jeff McKinney, Myrna Baird (Lorna Muller's sister), Norma Snyder (Mary Vang's sister-in-law), Leroy Clark (Lisa Davies' dad), Ron Burroughs, Tom Ehresman, Clara Italiano, Taylor Miller (Sherry Willey's granddaughter), Chris Ward

**Armed Services:** Dustin Kushnereit (Lisa Davies' son-in-law), Joseph Battey, Nolan Ohrt, Thomas Brown (Seydel's son-in-law), Kyle Marchik, Corey & Alexa Ormsby, Mike Ploeger & Daniel Larson (McKinney's nephews), Kaitlyn (McKinney) & Nick Brisbin, Jacob Ketelsen



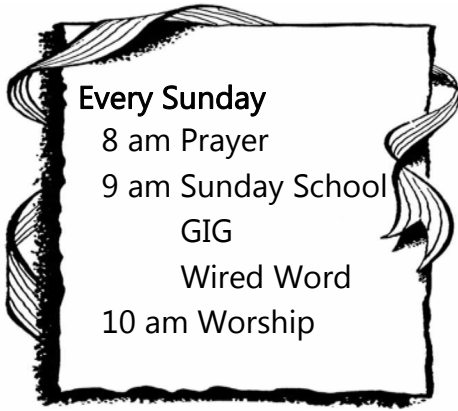
The Upper Room Devotionals for November/December are here. You can pick one up at the back of the church, in the Gathering Place, or in the breezeway.

**First Friday Donut and Devotions!**

On the first Friday of each month during the school year the Ecumenical Group meets at the UCC parking lot and distributes a donut and a devotion to all high school students that would like one. If you could help, please meet in the parking lot at UCC at 8 am Friday, December 1.



# December Calendar



Dates and times are subject to change. Go to our website for current information.

## Friday, December 1

8 am First Friday Donuts

## Sunday, December 3

11:15 am Next Congregation

## Tuesday, December 5

6:30 pm SPRC

## Wednesday, December 6

6:30 pm Trustees

6:30 pm Xn Chaos Rehearsal

## Thursday, December 7

10 am GIG

6:30 pm GIG

## Friday, December 8

3:30–4:30 pm HACAP Food Truck

## Saturday, December 9

11–1:45 am Shared Blessings

## Sunday, December 10

6:30 pm The Rock Band Youth

## Monday, December 11

5:30 pm Caring Ministries

## Tuesday, December 12

6:30 pm Missions

## Wednesday, December 13

6:30 pm Trustees

6:30 pm Xn Chaos Rehearsal

6:30 pm LFP Board

## Thursday, December 14

10 am GIG

6:30 pm GIG

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

## Tuesday, December 19

2 pm Worship @ Prairie Hills

6:30 pm Leadership Council

## Wednesday, December 20

Newsletter Articles Due

6:30 pm Xn Chaos Rehearsal

## Thursday, December 21

10 am GIG

6:30 pm GIG

## Saturday, December 23

11–1:45 am Shared Blessings

## Sunday, December 24

4 pm Christmas Eve Service

10 pm Christmas Eve Service

## Monday, December 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## Wednesday, December 27

8:30 am Holy Folders

6:30 pm Xn Chaos Rehearsal

## Thursday, December 28

10 am GIG

6:30 pm GIG

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

## Sunday, December 31

2 pm Church Family Huddle  
New Year's Eve Party



To watch live on Sunday morning (10:00am), or the most recent service (available until the following Saturday), visit the church website at [tiptonumc.org](http://tiptonumc.org) and click on the 'Join Us Via Livestream' link on the left side under the logo (or under the logo on your mobile phone). You can also click the WorshipLIVE icon on the front page.

To view archived services, click the Worship menu and select 'Worship Videos'. Or use this link: <https://tiptonumc.org/worship-videos/>



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
607 LYNN  
TIPTON, IOWA 52772

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## DECEMBER EVENTS

Dec. 1 — First Friday Donuts  
Dec. 3 — Next Congregation  
Dec. 8 — HACAP Mobile Food  
Pantry  
Dec. 10 — The Rock Band  
Dec. 9 — Shared Blessings  
Dec. 19 — Worship @ Prairie Hills

Dec. 20 — Newsletter Deadline  
Dec. 23 — Shared Blessings  
Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve Services  
Dec. 25 — MERRY CHRISTMAS  
Dec. 27 — Holy Folders  
Dec. 31 — Church Family Huddle  
New Year's Eve Party



**Mission Statement:**  
**Tipton First United Methodist Church**

“To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”