



# Adel UMC 2024 February/ March Newsletter

Phone: 515-993-3791

Office: [umcadel@msn.com](mailto:umcadel@msn.com)

Pastor: [pastorelizabethbell@gmail.com](mailto:pastorelizabethbell@gmail.com)

Website: [adelumc.org](http://adelumc.org)

From the Pastor's Pen...



Greetings in the name, fellowship and love of Jesus!

We are heading swiftly into the season of Lent. As I write this, I am also preparing for Transfiguration Sunday, Ash Wednesday and hopping on a plane for a bit of time in the sun and sand and salty waters of the Caribbean. As I consider this upcoming season, I wonder what God has in store for this amazing faith community and all those who might enter the doors – to either commune with us or challenge us. This will all be revealed in God's time.

What will people find when they enter?

For Christmas this past year, I received a desk calendar with Church signs. Our sign outside can always use some new catchy phrases so this was a good gift. Here are a few of my favorites so far...

*Be transformed, Not conformed*

*Open wide and say "AWE."*

*The biggest rejection can give great direction.*

*If everything is always going against you, then maybe you're facing the wrong way.*

And my number one (so far)...

***If everyone sings the same note, there's no harmony.***

We are so blessed by the uniqueness of self. There is no other person like you! That's what God did: he thought and decided the world would be a better place with you in it. He gave you the gift of humanness, with your strengths and your frailties, with your emotions and your curiosity, with your longing to connect to others. And even in the pain of navigating this world, he gave you community so you will know the strength of the Holy Advocate through the witness and love of other unique humans. Your voice is unlike any other voice and when it get pairs with other voices, there is harmony; not because you sound alike (or even in key with others) but because you are you.

The truth is that God longs for us to be authentic in our uniqueness. Don't hide your love for those weird little troll dolls. If you like to dance to bad 80's music, good for you! If you see your community suffering and the injustice of that suffering stirs a passionate response in you, don't be silent! Justice does flow like a river, but only if we open the dam of fear and uncertainty. When we live llife with true authenticity God sends others to us, so that we might never feel alone and we might make the world a better place for each of us and for those around us. The best example of this is that well known story of the woman at the well. Jesus saw her, knew her shame, didn't further shame her but used her for his ministry. He found her and brought her into community. Can you even imagine the joy of that moment for a woman who had been living outside of community for so long?

So I invite you to be your authentic selves – not just during Lent but all time. God has much joy and delight in his creation: YOU!

# Endless Gratitude For.....

During the last 3 years, Lynn Wilkerson has spent considerable time, dealing with the transition of our accounting system. She originally committed to serving 6 months while we looked for a permanent treasurer. Although this process could be frustrating at times, Lynn persevered. We have been deeply blessed by her commitment and exceptional work. Now that Lynn has completed her time in the accounting seat, we wish for wonderful vacations with Dave, ample free time to be Grandma to her beloved grandchildren and to just enjoy the fruits of retirement. Pastor Elizabeth, the Finance Team, and the entire congregation want to extend our thanks and gratitude for her time, service, and dedication to this Church. Lynn, we can't thank you enough for all you have done for Adel United Methodist Church!

- *Blessings from Pastor Elizabeth and the Finance Team*

# Please Give a Warm Welcome Too.....

Our new Church Treasurer, **Jamie Hachmeister**. She is a long-time resident of Adel. Her parents are Pat and the late Mark Heefner. Jamie graduated from ADM in 2002, and went on to the University of Iowa where she obtained a Degree in Accounting in 2007. Jamie lives in Adel with her husband, Josh and they keep busy with their four children: Nash (8th Grade), Nyah (6th Grade), Nell (3rd Grade), and Nori (Kindergarten)

# Servanthood

Serving God by doing what Jesus ask us to do. It is to love and care for one another, the community and our world.

Our leadership teams carry out the missions of the church both inside and outside of the church. Each team has a leader, but those serving on the team help complete our missions. They work together as one to grow spiritually and to serve God.

God asks us to be "All In" with our time, effort, talents and resources. We are asked to help the helpless and those in need not just with material physical things, but with our love. Have YOU found a place to serve? It can be in the church, community or impact those in the world. Jesus asks us to do our part right where we live. Just Do It!

God's Blessing Always!

*Vonz Odem- Advisory Council Chairwoman*

# Missions

Christmas Angel Tree Update: Mission Team, with the help of the congregation, was able to provide gifts and Fareway gift cards to **eleven** families. **Sixty-nine** gifts were purchased. Each family is also given a devotional for their use throughout the year.

We will be discussing our projects for 2024 at our February meeting. If you have ideas for mission projects for us, please reach out to a team member. We are planning to redo our t-shirt bags for Bidwell Riverside, so keep those t-shirts coming in! Also, each quarter we give a cash donation to a mission of our choice. In the past we have given to international, national, state and local missions. If you have an idea of where we can donate to, let us know.

We are welcoming two new members for 2024 – Susan Stogdill and Sue Ladd.

*Sandy Light– Mission Lead*



## Greetings from Caring Ministry

We are excited to announce that we have a **new Caring Ministry office** on the lower level in Room #106 (“Eden”)! We are very blessed to have this space and look forward to future gatherings in it. We will have an open house later in February. Please contact Carolyn Kern (515-250-6328 or [ckermnpcs@hotmail.com](mailto:ckermnpcs@hotmail.com)) with any questions.  
*Carolyn Kern– Caring Leader*





# A Message from the Finance Team

Financially 2023 was a very strong year for the Adel United Methodist Church. General Giving rose 5.6% from \$159,000 to \$168,000.

The increase in giving combined with the 6 month expense sharing of \$12,000 with Dallas Center enabled our church to pay 100% of their apportionments and conference asks for the first time since 2011. 12 years!!!!

We not only were able to fund all expenses including apportionments but finished the year with a budgetary surplus of \$3,143 as opposed to a prior year deficit of (\$6,021). This surplus was retained in our General Cash Fund which rose to \$39,852 from the prior year end \$35,556.

All this was accomplished last year without cutting any of our missional work and we even saw an increase/expansion in the number of missional ministries such as : a return to Wednesday night meal, the expansion of our presence to a destination stop for the Sweet Corn Fest, and a large expansion of the amount of food and essentials given away through the blessing box. These are just to name a few of the good things we accomplished last year!

THANK YOU so much everyone for being part of our financial success last year!

*Mark Light– Co- leader of Finance*

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Circle of Friends will meet on February 21 at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is welcome!! *Bev Smith– President of Circle of Friends*

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**Endowment  
Fund**

Endowment applications are now open!

Applications must be received by March 17th.

Endowment Committee Meeting to follow that week and a decision on which application( s) will be accepted.

All applicants will be notified by March 25th with final results. *Craig Bonney– Endowment Lead*

# Dress a Girl

The Dress a Girl volunteers have been meeting for a number of months and have produced over 70 dresses.

We are looking for a location in America that we could send our dresses. We would love for any suggestions or contacts. I did meet a woman whose relative goes to Uganda yearly and has taken Dress a Girl dresses before. We are always in the need for cute material and volunteers to sew or make up kits for the sewers.



We meet the second Tuesday of every month from 2-4 and again the fourth Tuesday from 2-8 for those that work during the day. If you can't make these workshops, there are kits available on Sundays to sew at home. And you don't have to sew as there are other things to do to make this a success. I can be reached by phone 508-245-8580 or [shl2984@aol.com](mailto:shl2984@aol.com). Thanks Sue Ladd

*Sue Ladd- Leader of Dress a Girl*

Dress a Girl Around the World is a Campaign under Hope 4 Women International (a 501 (c) 3 organization) bringing dignity to women around the world since 2006. Hope 4 Women International is a nondenominational independent Christian organization.

We dream of a world in which every girl has at least one new dress. We want girls to know that they are worthy of respect, and that they are loved by God.

<https://www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com/>

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## Lent schedule:

Ash Wednesday: 2/14 6:30pm service

**Palm Sunday:** 3/24 regular service: Community Program in the evening Location TBD

Maunday Thursday: 3/28 6:30pm

**Good Friday:** 3/29 6:30pm

Easter Vigil: 3/30 6pm-10pm

**Easter Sunday:** 3/31 10am

Easter Egg Hunt following service

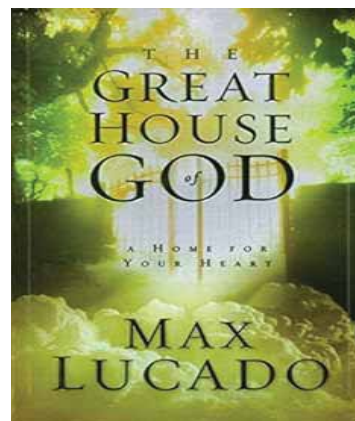
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## Sunday School:

Our weekly Sunday School is back in session! The kiddos meet Sunday at 9:30 am till 9:50 am. Then back again during nursery time. The theme is Values. The last couple weeks have been focused around Fairness & Stewardship. We welcome kids of all ages!



Bible Conversations- Our weekly adult Sunday School that meet's in room 210 (Rebecca). Join us starting February 25th for new lessons from Max Lucado's *The Great House of God*



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## Reminder

Remember we are always looking for helpers. Greeting, coffee chapel treats, ushering, liturgist, soundboard are just a few of the areas that are in need of assistance. If any of these jump out to you as an area of your expertise contact Pastor Elizabeth or Sam Long.

# Church Calendar

## February

- 4<sup>th</sup> BP Checks 9:30 & 11am  
Worship with Communion 10am
- 7<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Night Meal 5- 6:30pm  
Praise Band Practice 6:30pm  
Youth Group 6:30pm  
Chancel Choir Practice 6:45pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> Service of Remembrance for Caelen Peterson– 6pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> Winter Jam
- 11<sup>th</sup> Worship 10am
- 12<sup>th</sup> **Trustee Meeting 5pm**  
**Finance Meeting 7pm**
- 13<sup>th</sup> Dress-a- Girl Workshop 2pm  
**Missions Meeting 5:30pm**  
**AD Council Meeting 6:30pm**
- 14<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> Pastor Elizabeth Vacation
- 18<sup>th</sup> Worship 10am
- 21<sup>st</sup> **Circle of Friends 1:30pm**  
Wednesday Night Meal 5- 6:30pm  
Praise Band Practice 6:30pm  
Youth Group 6:30pm  
Chancel Choir Practice 6:45pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> Worship – Noisy Offering 10am
- 28<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Night Meal 5- 6:30pm  
Praise Band Practice 6:30pm  
Youth Group 6:30pm  
Chancel Choir Practice 6:45pm





## March

- 3<sup>rd</sup> BP Checks 9:30 & 11am  
Worship with Communion 10am
- 6<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Night Meal 5- 6:30pm  
Praise Band Practice 6:30pm  
Youth Group 6:30pm  
Chancel Choir Practice 6:45pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> Worship with Communion 10am
- 11<sup>th</sup> **Trustee Meeting 5pm**  
**Finance Meeting 7pm**
- 12<sup>th</sup> Dress-a- Girl Workshop 2pm  
**Missions Meeting 5:30pm**  
**AD Council Meeting 6:30pm**
- 13<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Night Meal 5- 6:30pm  
Praise Band Practice 6:30pm  
Youth Group 6:30pm  
Chancel Choir Practice 6:45pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> Worship with Communion 10am
- 20<sup>th</sup> Circle of Friends 1:30pm  
Wednesday Night Meal 5- 6:30pm  
Praise Band Practice 6:30pm  
Youth Group 6:30pm  
Chancel Choir Practice 6:45pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday- Noisy Offering 10am
- 26<sup>th</sup> Dress-a- Girl Workshop 2pm
- 27<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Night Meal 5- 6:30pm  
Praise Band Practice 6:30pm  
Youth Group 6:30pm  
Chancel Choir Practice 6:45pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> Maunday Thursday Service w/ Communion  
6:30pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> Good Friday Service 6:30pm
- 30<sup>th</sup> Easter Vigil 6pm-10pm
- 31<sup>st</sup> Easter Service- Communion 10am

