

The mission of Campbell United Methodist Church is to help people become disciples of Jesus Christ
who are changing the world for God's sake.

Campbell's Core Values - Grace, Creativity, Authenticity, Inclusivity, Selfless Service



Wednesday, December 24

3:00 pm - Family With Praise Music

5:00 pm - Blended

Mix of Traditional and Praise Music

7:00 pm - Cantata with Both Choirs

10:00 pm - Blessings and Carols

Join us in the sanctuary





FROM THE *Pastor's Desk*

Happy and Blessed Advent, Campbell family and friends,

Christmas is almost here! Can you believe it? Well, it's certainly getting cold enough outside to feel like Christmas, and we've already had a light bit of winter snow that coated the ground, at least for a day or so. Outdoor Christmas lights are shining beautifully in the evening hours, while decorated Christmas trees can be seen blinking from living room windows everywhere. We are still shopping, still sending out Christmas cards (or emails or...), still getting ready for the Christmas celebration to come in the next several weeks.

At Campbell UMC, we've been getting ready too... through our observance of the Christian season of Advent. Advent is a season of anticipation, of expectation, and of waiting. Waiting for what? Waiting for the coming of Christ, as a memory of baby Jesus coming into this world long ago, of our expectation and anticipation of Jesus coming again in a time to come, when all of creation will be complete, every heart will be filled, and every tear will be wiped away. And every day we live expecting to experience the risen presence of Christ in our hearts, guiding us as we become part of God's work in this world to bring people together in love. We're waiting, and we're active. We're not just sitting around doing nothing as we wait for the coming of the Lord. We've opened our hearts to following where Jesus is leading us to reach out beyond the walls of the church to make a difference in the lives of people that we know and love AND in the lives of people we don't know and love yet!

I thank you, Campbell, for having that open heart to hear Jesus' voice and to obey his call. Jesus has been calling our Campbell family to be a part of God's new thing. We've been struggling all along to understand exactly what God's new thing is, but one element of our call from Christ is that we follow Jesus' call to move and reach out wherever we happen to be.

God bless you for following Jesus' call, Campbell. Since January, we've prayerfully come to a decision to sell our property to provide funds to pay off our outstanding debts and to put our financial house in order, and we have. It certainly wasn't easy to leave a church building that we've called home for 40 years, but God provided a way for us. Part of that way was in the United Methodist connection, where King's Way UMC stepped up to provide us a very gracious rental agreement to give us a place to be as we continue to discern our future. A big thank you to Pastor Karen Hayden and to the good people of King's Way UMC for their hospitality.

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And a big, big thank you to all of our servants at Campbell, both paid and unpaid, in this time of great transition for us. There are so many people to thank that all I have space for is to name them. Please keep in mind that this list is not exhaustive, and there are so many, many more who have been essential as we dream our God-sized dream that God has for our future. Here are just a few names to share: Linda Carpenter, Bill Ed Huff, Terry Jepson, June Clark, James Blue, Jill Upp, Taleyna Morris, Deanna Daniel, Mackenzie Huffman, David Carr, Renee Paulsell, Jim Lersch, Bob Presley, Marcia Carter, the 2025 Church Council leadership, and **so, so many more**. I wish I could name you all! With all my heart, God bless you all for all you've done for Campbell, for our community, and for Christ!

The future for us is bright, Campbell, and in 2026 we are going to see great movement. Don't give up, but keep those hearts going. God has a wonderful place that God WILL show us, where we will be blessed to be a blessing as we do the "new thing".

God bless you, Campbell, and Merrrrrrrrrrrry Christmas! In Jesus love,

Pastor Kevin



(This article touched my heart. I share with you this Advent. - Rev Kev)

When we are all "nobodies" together, we are starting to feel the in-breaking Shalom of God.

... I believe I am gaining a richer understanding of the meaning of the Jesus scandal and the scandal of the gospel message. To my mind, the primary scandal relates to the announcement (clear enough already in the Hebrew Scriptures) that God really embraces nobodies and also that God wants those of who imagine we are somebody to think again.

Mary's "my soul magnifies the Lord" song in Luke 1 - her passionate rejoicing over world-changing good news - already invites us to reflect on God's special interest in the disinherited, on God's surpassing love for the least and the lost. The song even puts the Great Reversal into the past tense as an accomplished fact: "God has brought down the powerful from their homes and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty."

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The setting aside of the powerful and prominent was shocking news then, in the early days of the Roman Empire. It remains shocking news today, because the natural and culturally approved path for each and every one of us is to go out and make a name for ourselves: to gain recognition, wealth, and even honor in a competitive human culture. It's an absolute scandal for the gospel to be telling us how foolish this preoccupation is, yet God seems to be insisting that the nobodies matter most and that the wannabes need to chill.

When our primary goal is to become a "somebody," we expect God to go along with the program and honor our quest for success. But it doesn't work that way. God emphatically does not buy into our notion of ambition and success; in fact, everything we hear from the prophets and from Jesus tells us that God has a very different idea. God wants us to be done with vain ambition. God wants humility; God invites us to participate in the work of comforting the afflicted and affirming the dignity of all.

The last shall be first, the first shall be last. Paul makes the point eloquently in a letter to the status-conscious members of a little church he planted in the wealthy city of Corinth: "God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things - and the things that are not - to nullify the things that are."

God's loving embrace of nobodies can free us from the fatal grip of status anxiety if only we will let it. But oh, how hard it is to surrender the hunger for status! The encounter between Jesus and the rich young ruler (Matthew 19, Mark 10, Luke 18) is so very sad because this man who had it all could not conceive of living his life as a nobody.

Understanding how God blesses the life of nobodiness isn't just a theological insight. It also offers good medicine for a bitterly polarized country. Our so-called "elites" cling to their high status and high visibility, while our so-called "populists" cling to their anger over what they see as a lack of recognition and respect. The latter naturally gravitate to a religion that makes them feel superior and especially chosen.

To go back to Rabbi Heschel's framing, both parties to this nightmare are engaged in a spiritual betrayal that has fatally damaging consequences for us all. If people on both sides of the divide could see that they are all nobodies in God's eyes, we might actually have chance to make something new, even to make a love revolution. Especially when it's understood that the nobodies of this world also happen to be precious beyond imagining.

(from "We Are All Nobodies Together", Peter Laarman in "Letters from Peter")





Our new Director of Praise and Worship, David Carr, led our Campbell family as we praised the Lord on Sunday! What a blessing!

Service of Service with King's Way UMC

We'll be joining King's Way on December 28 for a Sunday of Service. This means there will be no 8:15 am or 10:45 am service. Meet in the Family Life Center at 10:00 am for a service opportunity.



Food Drive
Dec. 7 – Jan. 4

Sponsored by the Soul Sisters

Help us fill empty plates this season. Donate non-perishables to the Crosslines barrel at the Atkins House entrance and be the reason someone smiles at mealtime.



**The church office will be closed
during the holidays beginning
December 22 through
January 2nd.**

**The Campbell UMC church staff
wishes everyone a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!**

Kevin

Linda

June

Mackenzie

Deanna

David

Renee

Taleyna



SAVE THE DATE

January 6, Tuesday: Soul Sisters Planning Meeting

All women are welcome to plan next events/service projects and to share a snack/meal/fellowship at The Annex by Arris' Pizza at 5:30 pm.

January 20th, Tuesday: Soul Sister Pasta Making

Learn how to make pasta! We'll be making gnudi (ricotta/egg/flour pasta) with sauce at Martha Sutherland's house at 5:30 pm.

February 17, Tuesday: Soul Sisters Baking Night

An evening of baking at Jan Weiss house at 5:30 pm.
Details to come



Hospitality Greeters/Ushers/Donuts

We need more help with early morning or mid-morning worship setup!

Sign up in the Parlor or email Renee Paulsell at
hospitality@campbellunitedmethodist.org

Thank you

The women of Safe to Sleep thank Campbell UMC for providing their evening meal on November 24 from Pizza Hut on East Battlefield. They enjoyed the salad with fruit and cookies.

Our sympathy

To Rhonda Lersch upon the loss
of her mother, Doris Hillier

To Jacque Ford upon the loss
of her mother

Campbell at Crosslines

Volunteer with us at Crosslines Food Pantry to support the food insecure in our community. We serve on the 4th Thursday at 8:45 am – 1:45 pm. The next date will be January 22nd. Sign up in the Parlor/Link.

Ozarks Food Harvest

Monthly volunteerism

Every 3rd Saturday

Help us to support local food insecure students and seniors with food backpacks and senior boxes. The next date is December 20, 9 am to 12 pm. Sign up online or call the church office.



Toy Drive for Crosslines

Donate new unwrapped toys under the Christmas Tree in the parlor for low income families this holiday season. Deadline to donate is Sunday, December 14th.

Fiber Arts Group

We are taking a break for the Christmas season! Next meeting is Monday, January 5th at 12:00 Noon in the Atkins House.

Joy Club

Has your life taken an unexpected turn? Are you needing new direction, friends and comfort? Come and discover deeper friendships and the support of Christian friends. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Our next meeting date is December 11 at 11:30 a.m. at Panera Bread on East Battlefield.

Campbell United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 14704
Springfield, MO 65814

Do you need help with household tasks?

LET'S CARE FOR EACH OTHER

We can help with:

- ◆ *Installing grab bars or small ramps*
- ◆ *Light household tasks*
- ◆ *Basic outdoor work*
- ◆ *And more*



Want to volunteer? Contact the Hollands
Contact the Hollands or (417) 881-2018