



MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TITUSVILLE
206 S. HOPKINS AVE, TITUSVILLE, FL 32796
JANUARY 2023

How do United Methodists celebrate Epiphany/Three Kings Day?

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-how-do-united-methodists-understand-epiphany-and-three-kings-day>

Epiphany is the day Christians remember the coming of the Magi to visit Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

It occurs on Jan. 6 every year, the 13th day of the Christmas season. The word "epiphany," from the Greek word epiphania, means appearance or manifestation.

The arrival of these visitors was a sign that the incarnation of God in Christ had been made known and was recognized by the heavens to the whole world, so

that even Gentile wise men from the East came to pay him homage. This is an observance of great majesty, solemnity and awe.

An even more ancient Christian celebration than Christmas, Epiphany originally focused on the nativity, God's incarnation (God made flesh) in the birth of Jesus Christ, and Christ's baptism. After the late fourth century, as Advent developed as a season of baptismal preparation in addition to Lent, Epiphany became associated with baptism. This is why we see images of the three Magi on many older baptismal fonts.

In many Hispanic cultures, Epiphany is a day of great rejoicing and celebration, often kicked off by a parade the night before in which people dressed as the three kings or carrying statues of the three kings pass through the towns and villages throwing out candy and small gifts to all around. Families and children alike

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look forward to Día de Los Tres Reyes (Three Kings Day) as a time for presents, feasting and celebration. Attending church services that include the celebration of communion is also common in many of these cultures, even for those who may not attend worship regularly.

In England and some other European cultures, Jan. 5th is known as Twelfth Night, the culmination of the 12 days of Christmas feasting and partying. On Twelfth Night, many families gather in homes to celebrate with friends, food, singing and gifts. It is at these Twelfth Night celebrations that "[Chalking the Door](#)," asking God's blessing on those dwellings and upon all who live there, is most often observed.

In New Orleans, Twelfth Night begins another season of celebrations that comes to fulfillment at Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday). Epiphany itself, Jan. 6, becomes the kickoff day for that season, but is also often observed with a full celebration in church, complete with incense, elaborate processions, choral celebrations, and Eucharist.

Some United Methodists in the United States, who are not part of these rich traditions, tend to recognize Epiphany on the Sunday nearest Jan. 6. There may be a pageant of the three kings as part of worship that day and a small party afterward.



*The Adoration of the Magi tapestry dating from 1894 from the Manchester Metropolitan University, England.
Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.*

In celebrating Epiphany this year, consider partnering with a Hispanic, Latino, or other congregation to find new ways to joyously celebrate Epiphany/Tres Reyes. In whatever ways you decide to celebrate it, remember at the heart of your celebration are the Magi kneeling, worshipping and offering gifts to Jesus, Messiah for all people.

*This content was produced by Ask The UMC,
a ministry of United Methodist Communications.*

Thank you

Janet and I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation and thanks for the kindness, love, and support you have shown to us during Pastor Appreciation Month. Your cards, notes, letter, and gifts have been so kind and generous. It is an honor to serve such a kind, loving congregation and I am honored to call you our friends. Thank you again for the many ways you have blessed us...not only at this time, but always.

Pastor Wayne

November Budget Spending Summary

The Finance Committee appreciates your contributions and donations. With your support we will be able to continue sharing God's love with those around us.

Income

Total Income:	\$38,092
<u>Monthly Budgeted Goal:</u>	<u>\$39,459</u>
<i>Income Under Goal:</i>	<i>\$1,367</i>

Expenses

Church Programs:	\$23
Finance:	\$121
Church Administration:	\$1,378
Facility Maintenance:	\$13,877
Personnel:	\$20,740
<u>Conference Apportionments:</u>	<u>\$3,598</u>
<i>Total Expenses:</i>	<i>\$39,737</i>

Income Under Expenses: \$1,645

The budget for 2022 is **\$473,502** which, divided evenly, makes each month's goal \$39,459 rather than being weighted differently throughout the year. Although we have begun trying to cut expenses where we reasonably can, we are still feeling the financial pinch. If you are able to still contribute during these lean times, please help us to maintain our regular operating costs as you find you are able. Only with the generosity of our congregation have we been able to weather the storms of the past and even the current storm we are in.

Thank you for your loving generosity in keeping this church operating!

January Birthdays

1 Judy Titus	16 Truman Scarborough	22 Bill Irelan
1 Ken Studstill	17 Marie Pridgen	22 Diane Styles
7 Wayne Cook	18 Victoria Sumlin	23 Mike Mustard
9 Natalie Walls	19 Jill Dike	28 Ruth Alman
16 Pat Morgan	20 Tom Mosier	30 Jake Huether

January Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kathy Irelan	22 Tom & Lisa Mosier
20 Randy & Lynn Coleman	

Learning to 'live welcome' in response to human need

By Linda Bloom

Dec. 12, 2022 | NEW YORK (UM News)

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/learning-to-live-welcome-in-response-to-human-need>

Key points:

- **New York church aims to fill a need through a migrant ministry that relies upon partnership to provide practical support to newcomers.**
- **The United Methodist Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew was able to provide shelter for a small number of migrants after the city's shelter system reached capacity.**
- **The migrant response is an outgrowth of the congregation's decision in 2017 to join a movement of churches committed to immigrant rights and justice.**

When busloads of asylum seekers started rolling into Manhattan in August, the United Methodist Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew turned to an established network with other groups in crafting a response.

One of the immediate needs of the arriving migrants — then allowed into the U.S. to make asylum claims — was clear. An over capacity in New York City's shelter system meant that many had no immediate place to stay, said the Rev. Lea Matthews, associate pastor.

After the staff did a quick building audit and decided that the church could provide a small shelter, five men from Venezuela were assigned to stay there. "In a matter of four hours, we had a functioning sanctuary space," she said.

The congregation's Advent theme this year — embodying Advent through hope, love, joy and peace — is playing out through its expanding migrant ministry.

Any church can contribute to this type of ministry. "There are new arrivals in almost every community," said the Rev. K Karpen, senior pastor at St. Paul and St. Andrew. "They need to feel a Christian welcome."

Junior, one of the Venezuelans living at the church, knows there are obstacles to his goal of bringing his family to the U.S. "I hope to solve my problems if I receive help with my documents," he said through a translator.

In the meantime, he is grateful to have a support system. "I thank God to have known all these people," he said, referring to the connections established through St. Paul and St. Andrew. "They have helped me so much."

The migrant response is an outgrowth of the

congregation's decision in 2017 to join a movement of churches committed to immigrant rights and justice. The following year, St. Paul and St. Andrew took in a family threatened by deportation, a sanctuary situation that ended 15 months later with a legal reprieve.

This situation is different. The arriving migrants hoping to win asylum are facing a process that takes upward of six to eight years, Matthews pointed out, with the caseloads for immigration lawyers in New York way over capacity and court systems backed up. It's difficult, she added, to explain the details "to people who are disoriented and just looking for food and a winter coat."

Carol Scott, a St. Paul and St. Andrew community member who works as a paralegal for Bronx Legal Services, noted the tension between what can be done to support a small group of people and the enormity of the need related to a complex social issue.

But a "real widening of the circle" among communities of faith and neighborhood organizations has developed in this response to human need, she said.

"When we live welcome, that makes it possible for others to take pieces of the project and move forward in ways that we might not even anticipate," Scott added.

One of those pieces was a backpack project. A donation by John Street United Methodist Church helped kick the project off, Matthews said, and others, such as Congregation Rodeph Sholom, a Jewish partner, have joined in.

St. Paul and St. Andrew has committed to send 50 backpacks and a food donation from church partner West Side Campaign Against Hunger twice a month to La Morada, a restaurant and mutual aid network in the Bronx that distributes the bags to shelters. Previously, the church had worked with La Morada on food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another new piece of the ministry is welcoming asylum seekers to the church sanctuary on Monday mornings to receive information and assistance, share stories and connect with one another.

On the Monday after the first Sunday in Advent, for example, church member Fatima Bae arranged donated clothes and coats at the front of the sanctuary. She has collected and distributed used clothing in the neighborhood for 20 years and keeps a supply of men's and women's shoes for emergencies. "Then I have something to give away," she said.

On the opposite side, church members Karen Collins and Rosangela Oliveira stacked registration forms for the West Side Campaign Against Hunger, which provides access to healthy food and supportive services and is

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Rock The Universe

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An unforgettable weekend of faith and fun. If you would like to sponsor a student, or have a student who would like to attend this memorable experience contact Lauren at Lgood@fumctitusville.com or call the church office at 3212697631 ext 205

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2022
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**COST:
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CONTACT US

Lauren Good
Family Ministries Director

321-269-7631
www.fumctitusville.com

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based in the building.

They also distributed backpacks to families and individuals throughout the morning. Each backpack included a reusable water bottle, toiletries, socks, snacks, an English-Spanish dictionary, a \$22 NYC Metrocard and a \$20 bill.

By 10 a.m., a table of food, donated by B'nai Jeshurun — a nearby synagogue that has shared space with St. Paul and St. Andrew over the years — was set up for those who want an early lunch.

Another table was staffed by Héctor Arguinzones and Niurka Meléndez of Venezuelans and Immigrants Aid. The husband-and-wife team founded the organization, also a partner of the West Side Campaign Against Hunger, in 2016.

“There was a need for Venezuelans to communicate with someone who understood them and the reasons they left,” Arguinzones said. The all-volunteer organization also helps those from other Spanish-speaking countries, such as Panama, Honduras and Colombia.

Information is crucial to navigate the city and the immigration system, he added. “We refer Venezuelans to the services they need.”

The number of backpacks distributed on Mondays rose from 30 to more than 70 over a few weeks. But the volunteers assisting on those days also are learning what else is needed. Beginning Jan. 1, bigger items, such as diapers, menstrual supplies, winter clothing and shoes, will be available, but not in backpacks, Matthews said. However, church members will continue to prepare the essential-item backpacks to send to La Morada each

month.

Church member Julia Tulloch called the overall cooperative effort a model that other churches could use. “In many ways, SPSA has been a catalyst that has pulled together these other organizations that have buckets of knowledge on how these (city and immigration) systems work,” she said.

Others in the denomination’s New York Conference are reaching out as well, according to the Rev. Nikki Hutt, the conference’s disaster response and mission ministry coordinator. And two other New York City congregations are directly involved in migrant ministry, she said.

First Spanish United Methodist Church in Harlem offers a respite center for migrants from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, where visitors can find clothing, learn English and have a meal. The Rev. Dorlimar Lebrón Malavé is the pastor.

Bay Ridge United Methodist Church in Brooklyn, led by the Rev. Matthew Schaeffer, is collaborating on migrant ministry with the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, where Bay Ridge currently rents space.

Schaeffer said the Rev. Juan Carlos Ruiz of Good Shepherd has been involved with the sanctuary movement and an immediate action was to provide three days of respite space to some arriving migrants in a café area off the sanctuary. The arrivals also were greeted with both warm coverings and warm words through a prayer shawl ministry, with a notecard saying that they were being prayed for.

“We were responding to this huge influx,” Schaeffer recalled. From August through October, it could be “pretty chaotic” as the two congregations tried to care for and assist the 15 to 20 people who could be staying there at any one time. “We’ve networked with a lot of volunteers from different organizations.”

The flow of new immigrants has decreased, he added, but the relationships continue as “the people who came here understand that this is a resource center,” he added. Beyond the basics, resources also might include ESL classes, accompaniment to check-ins and legal appointments, assistance on obtaining work permits and even acupuncture treatments.

Hutt is applying for a \$10,000 solidarity grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief to split among the three congregations as they continue to assist asylum seekers.

Bloom, a member of the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew, is retired from UM News.

News media contact: Julie Dwyer at newsdesk@umnews.org. To read more United Methodist news, subscribe to the free Daily or Weekly Digests.



Donated clothing fills a front pew at the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew in New York City, including coats and warmer garments for the approaching winter. Photo by K Karpen.

January 2023

First United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 	2 — OFFICE CLOSED —	3 2:30pm Sit & Fit	4 9:00am Patchwork Friends 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal 6:30pm CrossPointe Rehearsal	5 9:30am PEO Meeting	6 1-3pm Food Pantry	7 7:30am Garden Club 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
8 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	9 10:00am Sara Fernandez Bible Study	10 2:30pm Sit & Fit	11 9:00am Patchwork Friends 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal	12 10:30am Retired Trachers Mtg.	13 1-3pm Food Pantry	14 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
15 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	16 MLK Jr. Day — OFFICE CLOSED — 	17 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:30pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	18 10:00am ADK3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal 6:30pm CrossPointe Rehearsal	19 9:00am Ladies Day Out 9:30am PEO Meeting 4:00pm Leadership Team Mtg	20 1-3pm Food Pantry	21 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
22 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	23	24 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:30pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	25 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 5:30pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal	26	27 1-3pm Food Pantry	28 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
29 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	30	31 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:30pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet				

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Reception Desk	Ext 201
Rev. Wayne Cook - Pastor	Ext 202
Mario Davis - Administrative Assistant	Ext 203
Glenda Waring - Membership Secretary	Ext. 204
Leah Patterson - Finance Secretary	Ext. 204
Lauren Good - Family Ministries	Ext. 205
Tom Mosier - Facilities Manager	Ext. 206
Leah Patterson - Custodian	Ext. 206
Carol Henn - Music Director	
J.D. Daniel - Organist	
Steve Rossi - Sound Tech	
Josh Huss - Lights and Visuals	
Dr. Bob Titus - Pastor Emeritus	

First United Methodist Church

206 S. Hopkins Ave
Titusville, FL 32796

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Worship Services: 10:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 8am – 4pm, Monday - Friday
Closed from 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Phone: (321) 269-7631

Fax: (321) 269-8359

E-mail Address: office@fumctitusville.com

Website: www.fumctitusville.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/682694095204027

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