



First Unitarian Church of Des Moines

1800 Bell Avenue Des Moines, IA 50315

Phone: (515) 244-8603 **Fax:** (515) 244-9761

Web site: *www.ucdsm.org*

STAFF:

Rev. Mark Stringer, *Minister*

Deb Dessert, *Dir. of Finance & Administration*

Tracy Beck, *Director of RE for Children & Youth*

Lori Emison Clair, *Dir. of Congregational Life*

Sheri Michaels, *Communications Coordinator*

Connie Price, *Bookkeeper*

Moira Leu, *Music Coordinator*

JoLynn Evans, *Office Assistant*

Ricky Klein, *Ministerial Intern*

Paul Francis, *Custodian*

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*First Unitarian Church of Des Moines invites people into
a respectful, authentic, and joyful religious community that
nurtures meaningful connections, pursues justice, and inspires service.*

**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2009
8:00 p.m.**



Christmas Eve
8 p.m. Candlelight Service
 First Unitarian Church of Des Moines
 December 24, 2009
Bruce Martin, pianist



Intoning the Chime

Call to Gather

Rev. Stringer

***Carol #228** *Once in Royal David's City*

***Lighting the Chalice** "Christmas Returns" by Howard Thurman

**Ricky Klein,
 ministerial intern**

Leader: Christmas returns, as it always does,

With its assurance that life is good.

People: *It is the time of lift to the spirit,
 When the mind feels its way into the
 commonplace,*

And senses the wonder of simple things:

An evergreen tree,

Familiar carols, merry laughter.

Leader: It is the time of illumination,
 When candles burn, and old dreams
 Find their youth again.

People: *It is the time of pause,
 When forgotten joys come back to mind,
 And past dedications renew their claim.*

Leader: It is the time of harvest for the heart,

When faith reaches out to mantle all high endeavor,

And love whispers its magic word to everything that breathes.

People: *Christmas returns, as it always does,*

With its assurance that life is good.

***Hymn #231** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

***Exchanging Peace**

***Hymn #244** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

First Reading From the Gospel book of Luke

Kellie Patterson

Hymn #246 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Second Reading From the Gospel book of Matthew

Cat Morris

***Carol #237** *The First Nowell*

**Reading the Names
 of New Children**

Choir *For So the Children Come*
 Music by J. Shelton; Words by Sophia
 Lyon Fahs

**Sharing Our
 Abundance**

Third Reading "The Gift of Grace" by William Schulz

David Witke

Choir *Winter Night* by Shelley Jackson
 Denham

Homily

Rev. Stringer

***Carol #225** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Blessing the Light Adapted from the words of Barbara
 Pescan

Passing the Light

Silence

***Carol #251** *Silent Night*

***Benediction**

***Extinguishing
 the Candles**

**Please stand as you are able.*

Thank You to all who brought Christmas goodies to this evening's service.

Hospitality Volunteers:

Patti Cale Finnegan, Joe Finnegan, and their daughters, Kerry Cale-Finnegan, and Alice Cale-Finnegan, Elijah Sorensen, Savannah Sorensen, Ellie Paxson, Chris Paxson, Harvey Harrison

This Week's Services

Annual Holiday Story Service with Jane Bibber

NO Saturday Service this week

Sunday, December 27, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., Auditorium

Come take a break from the holiday celebrations. Bring your family to gather with community to hear Jane weave a story around O'Henry's The Other Wise Men and see what timely lessons it can offer for us for this time of year.

Announcement: Des Moines Area Ecumenical Committee for Peace will hold a Prayer Service for Peace on Monday, December 28th at 7:00 p.m. at Urbandale United Church of Christ, 3530-70th Street, DM. Co-sponsored by First Unitarian International Peace and Justice Group.

Sharing Our Abundance

Your generous Christmas Eve contribution will be divided between *Children & Families of Iowa* and *Passageway*.

Children & Families of Iowa (CFI) is restoring hope, building futures and changing lives. *Passageway* provides a place where individuals with mental illness can find personal support and have employment opportunities and training.

Thank you to our poinsettia donors for the Church Auditorium

Dedicated in Memory of:

Sara Kathleen Paddock by Dee Paddock
Roland Burke by Carol Hibbs & Roland Riley
Ralph Rasey..... by Marilyn Lantz & David Rasey
Norman Simmons by Sandy Simmons
Mary Ellen by Carolyn Spencer
Lori & Wayne by Gene McCracken & Judy Davis
John A. Dawley, Sr. by Kathryn Dawley
Harold Lantz..... by Marilyn Lantz & David Rasey
Geneva Maxine Denge..... by Linda Applegate
Erle Fitz and in Gratitude for 36 years with him..... by Jo Fitz
of Erle Fitz by Susan Arland
Edwin Hoch by Bobbie Hoch & Stacy McVey
Dale Besco, Donald Notfsger, Roberta Noftsger..... by Alise Besco and Jonann Noftsger
Charlotte Spangler-Greif by Dagny Fidler
Allie Biondi, Maxine Purkapile, Murray Ringland,
Ron Purkapile..... by John & Elaine Ringland

Dedicated in Honor of:

the homeless people of Des Moines by Charlotte Shivers & Bob Baker
Shorty Harrleson by Ellen Taylor & Harvey Harrison
Lois Besco by Alise Besco and Jonann Noftsger
our mothers..... by Dale & June Engle
Mary Radcliffe..... by Mike Delaney
Mary Jane Hoch by Bobbie Hoch & Stacy McVey
Marty Ford..... by Diane Ford
Marguerite Rowe by David Devonis & Deborah Rowe
Lawrence Rowe by David Devonis & Deborah Rowe
Alice Willis by Karen & Rob Nicholson
Adelia Brown by Adele Villemez

Dedicated in Gratitude for:

Paul Barrows by Dee Paddock
our Unitarian Brothers & Sisters by Phyllis Swink & Caesar Smith
my grandchildren, Madison, Tristah, & Morgan by Anna Boulanger
Jim Ford..... by Diane Ford

Given by:

Steve Stephenson,
Carol & Bob Henderson,
Helen Copley
Tom Wieck & Erin Budreau
Tigon & Ben Woline

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