

Weekly Update

PLEASE TURN IN ANY BILLS TO BE PAID IN 2025 BY
DECEMBER 21ST.

PLEASE SUBMIT YEAR END GIVING BY
DECEMBER 28TH. Thank you!



Info as of 12/7

CONTINUE THE MIRACLE CAMPAIGN



PLEDGES FOR 2024-2026	\$278,918
Amounts Received	<u>\$253,447</u>
Remaining	\$ 25,471

*Thank you everyone for your commitment to this project.
Pledge cards are still being accepted. Please send any pledge
updates to dumcfinancial@gmail.com*

Last Sunday's in person attendance	91
4 Week average giving as of 12/7	\$4,288
Weekly Need in 2025	\$4,616

*Year to date giving is ahead by \$3,429 as of 12/7. Thank
you to everyone's generosity! Please prayerfully
consider how you can help with giving throughout 2025.*

WAYS TO GIVE: www.downsumc.org

**--Our drop box on Pillar outside the front door
or mail to: Downs UMC
205 S Highway Ave
Downs, IL 61736**

Reminder: Giving on line doesn't go on vacation

**You may not see everyone putting tithes and offerings in
the offering plate due to several people giving on line.**



DOWNS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 14, 2025



A Thrill of Hope: Shine on Series

**SUNDAY MORNING IN PERSON AT 9:30AM
ONLINE SERVICE BY WEDNESDAY**

**309-378-2651
www.downsumc.org**

**Reverend Allen Miller
pastor@downsumc.org**

Welcome

to



***We are so glad
you are worshiping with us!
We would love to know who has joined
us, so please sign in on the attendance
pads that will be passed in each row.***

Nursery: is located to the right as you exit the sanctuary through the double doors. It is at the far end of the fellowship hall.

Restrooms: Can be reached by exiting the sanctuary through the back left door as you face the stage. They are right by the Nursery.



Busy Bags are available at the entrance to the Worship Center for the children to use during the worship service. There are stickers, crayons, lacing items, etc. Please return the bags to the tote by the Worship Center Entrance after the service.



Children's Church is designed for K-3rd Graders. We will meet in Classroom #1 or the Youth Room. They will meet a volunteer at the front of the Worship Center and head out after the Doxology (so they'll meet during the Scripture Reading, Sermon and Up Next). Children will return to the worship service for the closing song.
Communion Sundays they will not meet. No Children's Church 12/14 and 12/21.

Today & This Week



Sun 12/14	8:30am	Adult Sunday School in YR
	9:30am	Worship
	10:45am	Swap Room
	10:45am	Fellowship
	10:45am	Baked Potato Bar/Silent Dessert Auction
	3:00pm	Girl Scouts in YR
	3:00pm	Great Banquet in Library
	3:30pm	4-H in FH and CR1
	4:00pm	Bible Study

Mon 12/15 6:00pm **Boy Scouts in YR**

Tues 12/16 10:00am **Bible Study in YR/Zoom**

Wed 12/17 4:00pm **Journey Group in Library**
5:30pm **Next Gen Ministries K-8th**
6:00pm **Choir in Chapel**

Thur 12/18 6:00pm **Worship Team on Stage**

Sat 12/20 9-11:30am **Children's Program Practice**

Sun 12/21 8:30am **Adult Sunday School in YR**
9:30am **Worship**
10:45am **Swap Room**
10:45am **Fellowship**
3:00pm **Football Ministry**
4:00pm **Bible Study**

ALL meetings and groups using the facility need to schedule through the office at office@downsumc.org or 309-378-2651.

**Please don't assume meeting space will be available, or that verbal okays from anyone else will guarantee your spot.
Thank you in advance for your help with this.**

Should plans change and your ministry doesn't meet please let the office know.



Tuesday morning Bible Study meets in the Youth Room and are on Zoom 10am.

Sunday night Bible Study will meet at 4pm in the Chapel.

Adult Sunday School meets at 8:30am in the Youth Room each Sunday.

The class is using the videos "That the World May Know". Filming is done in Israel and the study brings the Bible to life.



NEXT GEN YOUTH WORSHIP

It meets Sunday mornings and is designed for 4th grade students and up. The service is tailored to engage our youth audience and meets in the Youth Room 9:30am to 10:30am.

The Swap Room located in the building West of the church building is open on Sundays 10:45am until noon. Proceeds all go to the Downs UMC General Fund. Please come browse as the items will change each week. You can also drop items off at this time. **Have questions, use the following email address:** swaproom@downsumc.org



UPCOMING

Sunday, December 14	10:30am	Baked Potato Bar & Dessert Silent Auction
Sunday, December 21	9:30am	Children's Musical
Wednesday, Dec 24	5:00pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 28	9:30am	Worship Service

December 14, 2025

Welcome

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus #124
Joy to the World #125

Lighting of the Advent Candle
"Joy"

Downs UMC Choir presents
Just One Star

Readings by Derric Johnson and Max Lucado
Music arrangements by Marty Parks, Dennis Allen and Various Hymnals

The Lord's Prayer
Pastoral Prayer
Offertory: *O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful #119*
Doxology

Up Next

Shine, Jesus Shine

Benediction

Thank you to the choir for all their hours of practice, and to Kitty and Amy using their musical talents to share the story of Christmas through music.

Thank you to our narrators: Laura Walters, George Lewis, Chris Mushrush, Lisa Cross, Aaron Poppy & Michele Tocco. Also to Mark for sound and lighting and Tom Coulon at the Computer.



We have an active prayer chain at Downs UMC and we believe in the power of prayer. If you would like your name added to the prayer list or the prayer chain please follow the instructions below. God hears us when we pray, and blesses us with His answers to prayer.

To be a member of the prayer chain and be notified of a prayer

request, please let the office know that you would like to be included in that group email.

To be added to the prayer list (for ongoing requests) please send information to prayerrequest@downsumc.org or call the office at 378-2651. Please be sure to mention if permission has been granted to publish each individual's name.

To be added to the prayer chain (for urgent or time-sensitive requests) please send an email to office@downsumc.org.

CURRENT REQUESTS

HEALTH & HEALING: Ron Terven; Axel Riordan; Ruth Christmas; Lori Roland; Sandy Courson, Dawn Belmar, Ellen Bricker; Jimmy Roach; Beverly Hamblin and Family; Cameron Jones; Guy Campbell; Abby Miller; Patrick Moran; Jonathan Thompson; Kathie Foster; Jim Jordine; Pat Sowerby; Mary Iliff Engelbrecht; Jim Finch; Sheila Young

WISDOM: Colby & Lexi Riordan Family; Deb Bricker; Cameron Jones

LONG TERM CARE: Pastor Curt Rush

MILITARY: Blaise McNeese, Matthew Kelly, Michael Allen

PEACE & COMFORT: Pam Rush



is the tool we use for the congregation to sign up for opportunities to serve here at Downs UMC on Sunday mornings.

An invitation is sent through email. Should you not be able to access the Sign Up Genius, please let the office know what opportunity you would like

to sign up for and they will do that for you. Not sure what an opportunity involves? Contact the office.

What a blessing to be able to serve God by serving here at Downs UMC!



Baked Potato Bar and Dessert Silent Auction is TODAY after Worship. Proceeds go to the Timber-lee trip.



Readers are needed on Christmas Eve. See the December Sign up Genius to sign up.



Next Gen is our student ministries. Wednesday evenings it is for Kindergarten through 8th Grade. Sr High meets on Sundays after the worship service.

Want to be a part of making disciples for Jesus? Be a part of the Wednesday night Next Gen Team. Contact Kyle to see where you can best serve.