

# 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 12/14**

**CONTINUE THE MIRACLE CAMPAIGN**



PLEDGES FOR 2024-2026	\$278,918
Amounts Received	<u>\$254,510</u>
Remaining	\$ 24,408

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

Last Sunday's in person attendance	72
4 Week average giving as of 12/14	\$4,054
Weekly Need in 2025	\$4,616

*Year to date giving is ahead by \$3,838 as of 12/14.  
Thank you to everyone's generosity! Please prayerfully  
consider how you can help with giving throughout 2025.*

**WAYS TO GIVE: [www.downsumc.org](http://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 21, 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](http://www.downsumc.org)**

**Reverend Allen Miller  
[pastor@downsumc.org](mailto: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-3<sup>rd</sup> 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 today.***

## Today & This Week



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

Mon 12/22 6:00pm Boy Scouts in YR

Wed 12/24 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Thur 12/25 MERRY CHRISTMAS

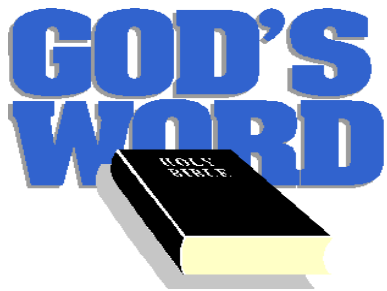
Sun 12/28	8:30am	Adult Sunday School in YR
	9:30am	Worship/Youth Worship & Children's Church
	10:45am	Swap Room
	10:45am	Fellowship
	4:00pm	Bible Study

**ALL meetings and groups using the facility need to schedule through the office at [office@downsumc.org](mailto: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. They are taking a 2 week break and will resume on January 6th.

**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.



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. *In 2025 the Swap Room has brought in over \$6300 to the General Fund.* Thank you to the organizers of this ministry along with the shoppers and those making donations.



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](mailto:swaproom@downsumc.org)

## UPCOMING

**Wednesday, Dec 24**  
**5:00pm Christmas Eve Service**  
**Sunday, December 28**  
**9:30am Worship Service**



## NEXT GEN YOUTH WORSHIP

meets Sunday mornings in the Youth Room at 9:30am and is designed for 4th grade students and up. The service is tailored to engage our youth audience. They will not meet this week but will join everyone in the Worship Center.

**December 21, 2025**

**Welcome**

***O Little Town of Bethlehem #141***

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**  
***"Love"***

**Children's Ministry presents**  
***Carol of the Belles***  
**Created by Little Big Stuff**

**The Lord's Prayer**  
**Pastoral Prayer**  
**Offertory: *"The Newborn King"***  
**Doxology**

**Up Next**

***Shine, Jesus Shine***

**Benediction**







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](mailto: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](mailto: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



Keep an eye out next week for a new SignUpGenius for snow removal of the sidewalks and under the canopy. Trustees are asking that people sign up for a week at a time. Needs will be dependent on the weather. Thank you to all those making the efforts to clear the ice and snow so we can be safe.



**The Baked Potato Bar and Dessert Silent Auction was a huge success and raised over \$1300 to go towards the bus and driver's hotel for the Timber-lee trip. Thank you to everyone that participated in this.**



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



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

They will take a 2 week break and return on Wednesday, January 7th.



**Thank you** from the UWF for all that donated, helped or purchased items from the Cookie Walk and the Sewing Group. They took in \$1900 from the event. What a blessing with the weather we had!