



Sunday, December 31st

One Worship Service - at 10:00am

**** No Sunday School on 12/31**

**RETURN TO REGULAR SUNDAY
WORSHIP HOURS ON JANUARY 7TH
(8:30am, 10:00am & 11:00am)**

Come try gentle yoga! Experience meditation with movement as a different way to connect with God. Come: any age, any size or body type (especially if you can't touch your toes!), and we'll benefit from this practice together. Yoga is for "everyBODY!" This class is not designed to break a sweat, but rather to focus on breathing and moving your body in a way that is good for your mental and physical health. Bring a mat or towel and comfy clothes. Trish DiChiara will be leading the class, and is a 100-hour certified yoga teacher and yogi, and has been practicing for the past 15 years.



Classes are held the first and third Wednesday of the month in Room 203 at 6:30pm. All are welcome!



**PLEASE KEEP
THESE PEOPLE
IN YOUR
PRAYERS:**

- *Lolly Adolfson
- *Becky Casey's mom, Phyllis Ackerman
- *Russ & Louise Corey
- *The family of Tom Corzan, at his passing
- *Jeanne & Darryl Dupre's friend, Donna Hendrickson
- *Judy & Gary Geistler's godson, Brody Roberts
- *Ron Henbest
- *Carole Holloway's friend, Sam Madia
- *Tammy Jiménez's sister & family
- *Ron Lee
- *The Madden Family, at the passing of their dog, Vidalia
- *Ruth Marcks
- *Belinda (Joe) Maranowicz's father, Bill Courter
- *Misty Martin
- *Bonnie Rogers' brother-in-law, Terry Rogers
- *Donna Morrow's son-in-law, John Vanderhoek
- *Judie Sharar, at the passing of her mother, Ruby Arnold
- ** Victims injured/killed in the Amtrak train accident in Washington state
- ** Victims of war, famine & oppression
- ** Our military, police, fire fighters & first responders

If you would like to include someone on the prayer list, please complete a Prayer Request Card.



A Reminder... If you haven't already done so, please turn in your Pledge Card. You can simply drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the Church Office. **Thanks for your support.**

**2018 Sign-up Sheets
for Coffee Hour Hosts
and Altar Flowers
are posted in JBFH.**



Please sign up for your date(s) of choice for the coming year!

Thank you for helping to keep PUMC a welcoming place of warm hospitality!



**New Year,
New Winter
Lay Academy!**

**Naperville Wesley UMC
2 Saturdays: January 6th & 13th
8:30am to 4:30pm**

Church Leaders: sign up for one of two courses offered:

- ♦ **Leading Bible Study** - Open a new world for those who have not had professional training in biblical interpretation & start 2018 by renewing a core part of your spiritual journey.
- ♦ **Conflict Resolution** - Every church deals with conflict, both healthy and unhealthy! Learn to be equipped and empowered to lead through those times of conflict and see them as a time of transformation.

Regis. Fee of \$40 is due by 12/31/17.

Indicate which course, and make checks payable to "Aurora Lay Academy" and mail to 717 N. Washington St., Wheaton, IL. 60187. Questions? Contact mary.mecker@gmail.com / 630-709-3953.

AN INSIDE JOB

The story of the Nativity of Christ is not just a lovely, starlit moment of precious magic and calm adoration. It's the story of God's subversion of the world, through no power at all except love. Read the stories (one in Matthew, one in Luke) without romanticizing and you see a story of God's vulnerable presence amidst poverty, oppression and danger. The manger is not a cute image. It's about a family that is homeless, at risk, and coping. The magi work knowingly around political and military repression. The family escapes death squads and becomes refugees. And where is God in all this? In a baby.

This is the story of God's incursion into our power structures, to transform them from the inside out with nothing but radical presence and compassion. God does not act as a king or a warrior, but comes as a vulnerable, powerless child, who makes rough shepherds tender, who draws kings to worship on their knees, who threatens Herod and reorganizes society. God does not impose laws for us to follow: God gives us love to fall into.

(cont.)

The festival of the Nativity of Christ is the celebration of God's radical presence with us, among us and within us, with nothing but love. God changes the rough world into a world of gentleness, from among the vulnerable and marginalized. It's an inside job. And God enlists us to join the movement. God invites us to live in the world with this spirit of presence and compassion, to be gentle in a rough world, to be loving when it is a risk, to exercise the power of powerlessness, to trust grace. God extends this invitation by coming into the rough and lowly places in our own hearts, and living there with healing power, with nothing but love.

This Christmas may you be more deeply inspired to embody God's love and emboldened to bear it into this sometimes dark and rough world. May God's Word become flesh. May Christ be born in you this holy season, and throughout the new year.

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PUMC CALENDAR December 24th through December 30th

Sun., 12/24	5:00p	Christmas Eve Family Worship
	7:00p	Youth-led Christmas Eve Service with Bellissimo Handbell Choir
	10:30p	Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service featuring Chancel Choir.
Weds., 12/27	11:00a	Trinity Food Pantry (Offsite)
	6:00p	Children's Choir (Choir Room)
	6:30p	Immersion Bible Study (Offsite)
Thurs., 12/28	6:30p	Staff-Parish Relations Committee (C/L)
Fri., 12/29	5:00p	Wedding Rehearsal
Sat., 12/30	8:30a	Bellissimo Practice (Sanctuary Balcony)
	1:00p	Duncan/Larsen Wedding

