

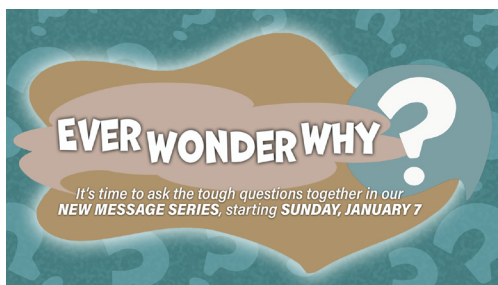
JANUARY 2024

at Ingomar Church

A quick look at what's new and exciting this month for church friends and family

New Message Series: Ever Wonder Why?

Have you ever had a question so hard you wouldn't even say it out loud? Or a doubt so big you didn't feel like you could share it—especially at church? Maybe it's time to ask the tough questions together in the series, *Ever Wonder Why?*



Please join us as we explore some of the tough questions, Sunday mornings beginning January 7 and continuing up to Ash Wednesday.

In this series, we will ponder questions like:

"Why Did God Let This Happen?"

"Why Should I Trust God?"

"Why Does God Feel Far Away?"

Together we will seek inspiration and explore timeless wisdom in a fresh and meaningful way. Come and embark on a journey of discovery to ignite the Spirit within and reconnect with something greater than yourself. By asking the hard questions, we can discover the holy mystery of God.

This is a time to revive, reconnect, and rediscover the unique and powerful force that exists in the connections we make and in the relationships that develop ... those that enable each person to find purpose, community, and growth.

You are Invited to Join a New Discipleship Group

Alongside our new sermon series, exciting new discipleship groups are available to meet you where you are, offering fellowship, support, and growth.

These groups provide safe spaces for genuine connection in a variety of settings, where friendships can be forged and hearts uplifted. Together, we will navigate the journey of faith, fostering a community filled with inspiration, reflection, and opportunity for making deep connections.

Our newest discipleship groups include:

How to Read the Bible for Grown-Ups—Offering new details and interpretations of familiar Bible stories for an adult audience.

Upcoming Message Schedule

January 7 - *Why Did God Let This Happen?*

8:30 & 10 Traditional & 11 Contemporary
Pastor Cyndi

January 14 - *Why Didn't God Answer My Prayer?*

8:30 & 10 Traditional & 11 Contemporary

January 21 - *Why Should I Trust God?*

8:30 & 10 Traditional & 11 Contemporary

January 28 - *Why Can't I Stop?*

8:30 & 10 Traditional & 11 Contemporary

February 4 - *Why Does God Feel Far Away?*

8:30 & 10 Traditional & 11 Contemporary

February 11 - *Why Does God Love Someone Like Me?*

8:30 & 10 Traditional & 11 Contemporary

Disciple New Testament—An "escorted tour" of the New Testament in a 12-week "fast track" format of the Disciple Bible Study course.

Saving Grace—Personal money management reflecting Wesleyan Christian values.

The Hangout for Adults—A non-threatening place to invite friends open to exploring questions of faith.

Christianity 101 for Adults—A safe place for newcomers, the curious, or those seeking a deeper understanding of the basics of the Christian faith.

We believe that every person has a place here at Ingomar Church – a place to grow, to belong, to have meaningful conversations, and to make a difference in the world. Come join us!

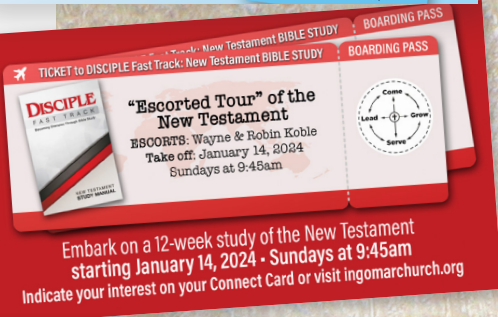
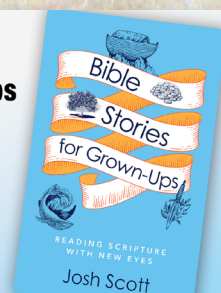
at a glance

How to Read the Bible for Grown-Ups

Beginning January 11

Thursdays, 3:30-4:45pm
Community Life Center, Room 125A
Led by Pastor Cyndi

Revealing new details & interpretations of familiar Bible stories for an adult audience



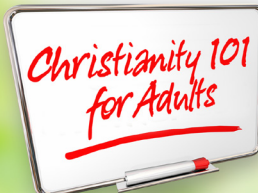
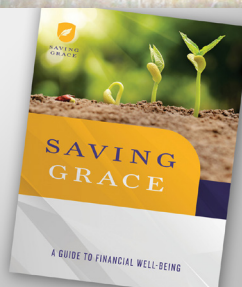
SAVING GRACE

Beginning January 15
Monday afternoons, 1:30pm
Community Life Center, 125A

Beginning January 16
Tuesday evenings, 7pm
Community Life Center, Room 109

Both groups led by Pastor Greg

Personal money-management reflecting Wesleyan values



Beginning January 17

Wednesdays from 7pm-8:30pm
Community Life Center, Room 109
Welcoming, informative discussions facilitated by Pastor Cyndi

Newcomer? Seeking deeper understanding? Simply curious about Christian teachings? Come explore your faith journey in a safe place for questions & sharing

 **Ingomar**
CHURCH
Making Life Better.

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Reading the Bible for Grownups

Beginning January 11

Thursdays, 3:30-4:45pm

Community Life Center, Room 125A

Led by Pastor Cyndi

This six-week Bible study, will consider stories many read as children, revealing new details and interpretations for an adult audience.

To join this study or to get more information, check your Connect Card in worship or contact Pastor Cyndi: cbloise@ingomarchurch.org



New Testament "Escorted Tour"

Take off: January 14, 2024

Sundays at 9:45am

Worship Center Conference Room

ESCORTS: Wayne & Robin Koble

Embark on a 12-week, small group tour of the New Testament and Holy Land. No passports required. Come and Grow in knowledge, faith, and fellowship.

To join this study or to get more information, check your Connect Card in worship or contact Pastor Cyndi: cbloise@ingomarchurch.org



Saving Grace

Mondays, beginning Jan 15 at 1:30pm in the Community Life Center, Room 125A or Tuesdays beginning Jan 16 at 7pm in the Community Life Center, Room 109

Led by Pastor Greg, this six-session personal money-management course is meant to reflect Wesleyan Christian values. It avoids the shame of money troubles, and stresses money management as a spiritual discipline.

To join this study or to get more information, check your Connect Card in worship or visit ingomarchurch.org

Next Generation Ministry NEWS

NERF NIGHT: January 7

Middle School 5:00-6:30pm; High School 6:30-8:30pm

ALL YOUTH are invited! Don't have a Nerf Blaster? No biggie, we have extras! Don't like Nerf Wars? Come and hangout and eat free food! No one will be forced to play!

THE 'IMPOSSIBLE SHOT' AT NERF NIGHT!

Can you make the Impossible Shot? At Nerf Night everyone gets ONE shot at making the Impossible Shot! If you make the Impossible Shot you win a \$100 bill. For every friend you bring, who has not been to Youth before, you will receive an additional shot! See you there!

SOUP MAKING FOR THE SOUPER BOWL:

February 3 (8am to 5pm)

Souper Bowl Sunday,

February 4 is our major fundraiser for our annual Youth Mission Trip. We typically raise \$10,000 at this event each year. This is a **MANDATORY EVENT** for anyone going on the Mission Trip. Mark your calendars now and plan to participate!

Next Gen Youth: UPCOMING TEACHING SERIES

Who do you think you are? You might define your identity by the things people see on the surface — like your

style, your look, your abilities, or your reputation. Those things might have something to do with who you are, but

they don't quite capture the whole picture, do they? For each of us, there is always so much more to who we are beneath the surface. But who are we, really? How can we discover who God made us to be? And how can following Jesus shape who we're becoming? In this four-week series, we'll look at four moments from the early years of Jesus' life. As we do, we'll see how God helps us

discover who we're becoming and how God's words help us discover who we are. We'll also learn how the right relationships help us discover how to grow and how Jesus helps us discover purpose.

NEXT GEN ALL-CHURCH BOWLING EVENT

Families and children of all ages are invited for a fun afternoon of Bowling on Sunday, February 4 from 3pm-5pm at Pines Plaza Lanes. Cost

is \$18/person or \$50/family, with scholarships available. Cost includes shoes/lane rental, pizza and drinks. Registration available soon in IConnect or find the link at the church website.

NEXT GEN KIDS MIDWEEK & Parents Small Group

Wednesdays from 6pm-7:30pm in the Community Life Center, starting January 17 Kids meet in the MAC Room Parents meet in the Café

These groups provide a midweek connection to reinforce what is learned on Sunday mornings at GROW, and to build relationships with each other, volunteers, and God. Parents have a space to build those same relationships with opportunities to join in discipleship together. Please plan to join us!



Some serious Gingerbread House construction at the YOUTH Christmas Parties!

Ingomar Child Enrichment Center News

Wishing you a Happy 2024! Special thanks to the children of Ingomar Child Enrichment Center, who presented their annual Christmas Program, featuring 19 classes in 4 separate performances, to the absolute delight of all who attended! Thanks to all of the parents, grandparents, and friends who supported them!

For info about registration for the 2024-2025 school year, visit ingomarpreschool.org/registration



Merry Christmas from all of the children of Ingomar Child Enrichment Center!

Ingomar Living Waters Updates

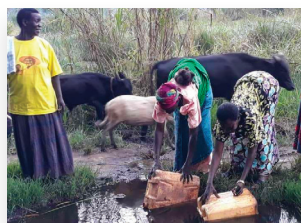
Thank you Ingomar Church for your generosity in bringing the gift of clean water to the world in 2023!



Ingomar Living Waters
Bringing the gift of clean water to the world

Ingomar Living Waters, a mission of Ingomar Church, did 60 clean water projects across 20 countries bringing clean water to over 85,000 people. The first project in 2023, a water truck bringing clean water to those who lost it during war in Ukraine, was made possible by the Ingomar Church 2022 Christmas offering (half went to funding the project). Learn more at <https://ingomarlivingwaters.org/2023-001>

In April 2023, many Ingomar Church members attended and others volunteered to help make the annual **Turning Wine Into Water** event the most successful ever, netting \$314,000. Combined with other generous donations throughout the year, Ingomar Living Waters funded \$390,000 in water



BEFORE: Water source in Galiraya Village, Uganda—a swamp shared with animals



AFTER: Joyful children celebrating the completion of their new well

projects in 2023. On behalf of all of those who now have clean water, **"THANK YOU!"** To see a video summary 2023 results, visit:

<https://ingomarlivingwaters.org/video2023>

Looking ahead, record droughts continue to dry up surface water sources and shallow wells which are some peoples' only available water. In other areas, floods and war have wiped out people's access to clean water. But with your help, Ingomar Living Waters can continue to help alleviate the huge need for clean water in 2024. Please mark your calendars for the **Turning Wine Into Water** event on Saturday April 20 at 6pm. Thank you for your continued generosity in 2024 in helping bring the gift of clean water around the world!

Mission Outreach Year-in-Review

Our Mission Team has done a great job of not only increasing the amount of funding we have given to local and international missions, but we have also encouraged increasing the amount of personal engagement with these organizations. Thank you to each person at Ingomar Church who has supported these efforts and has risen to the challenge!



Organizations supported by Ingomar Church Missions Outreach demonstrate good financial accountability procedures as well as providing reports on the ways our contributions change lives. When you give to specific missions on Mission Focus Sundays, when you participate in our fall and spring Rummage Sales, when you offer a service or bid on a service in our annual "Auction Heroes" service auction, or when you give regular offerings allocated to Missions, your contributions help to fund our mission and outreach.

To offer transparency regarding funds allocation, the following disbursements were made in 2023.

Mission / Outreach Disbursements (designated and undesignated)

United Methodist Church Union	\$22,246.45
(includes "The Bridge", Daily Bread, and Kids Meal Network)	
Hair Peace Charities	\$8,080
HEARTH	\$10,571.20
(does not include recently collected gift card money)	
Homeless Kits	\$346.48
North Hills Community Outreach	\$14,780
(includes Thanksgiving on Every Table)	
UMCOR	\$25,208.86
(\$5,208.86 of this went to the Mission Barn)	
Wycliffe Bible Translators	\$5,450
Abukloi Foundation*	\$10,000
Total	\$89,491.30
\$10,866.04 went to other related expenses such as Mission trips, Xavier Personal Care Home, and Rummage Sale and Auction expenses.	

*A new mission called Abukloi ("We Can" in the language of the Dinka) located in South Sudan. This high school teaches academics as well as life skills that help build hope for a more sustainable future. Read more and sponsor a student's education at abukloi.outgiven.org. After meeting online with one of the founders, our Mission Team decided to fund a nurse at the school (\$6,000 for the academic year) as well as provide \$4,000 to help feed the students who walk as long as 90 minutes each way to school.



The Hangout for Adults

Beginning January 16
1st & 3rd Tuesdays monthly, 6pm-8pm
at Cadence Clubhouse

A non-threatening place to invite friends open to exploring questions of faith. No reading, preparation, or previous Christian knowledge required.

To join this group or to get more information, check your Connect Card in worship or visit ingomarchurch.org

*Christianity 101
for Adults*

Christianity 101 for Adults

Beginning January 17
Wednesdays from 7pm-8:30pm
Community Life Center, Room 109

Whether you are a newcomer to the Christian faith, seeking to deepen your understanding, or simply curious about the teachings of Christianity, this class is designed to provide a welcoming and informative environment for all.

To join this group or to get more information, check your Connect Card in worship or contact Pastor Cyndi: cbloise@ingomarchurch.org

Electronic Giving is Easy!

Choose from online giving through our website: ingomarchurch.org/give or our mobile "myVanco" giving app, or simply text an amount (preceded by a dollar sign) to 412-504-7798 and enter a giving code. Thank you for your generosity!

Consider Legacy Giving

Please add this line to your will: "After my bills are paid, I want 10 percent of my estate (a tithe) to go to Ingomar United Methodist Church." Ask your legal advisor about this.

January 2024



Hospitality Hub
Getting to know you ...

Social Time Sunday is January 21. Enjoy light refreshments and fellowship with your friends and family. Please consider bringing your own travel mug with lid to help us reduce our overhead costs.

Thanks Christmas Eve Volunteers!

Thank you to our many volunteers for serving at all of our Christmas Eve services to provide a warm welcome to all who attend. You truly radiate God's love and we're very thankful for each & every one of you!

2024 Altar Flower Dates Are Open

You can donate Altar Flowers electronically—a wonderful way to remember loved ones or to celebrate a special day or occasion. Find the form on the home page in IConnect, under Forms - 2024 Altar Flowers. You may also call the Church Office to request a date.

Undecorating Christmas

Monday, January 8 from 3pm-7pm. Dinner will be provided. Stop by as you are able. Please email Erin and let her know if you are attending and if you have special dietary needs. etoohy@ingomarchurch.org.

Be a Social Media Champion

If you use social media, please follow Ingomar Church on Facebook, Twitter, and/or Instagram:

facebook.com/ingomarchurch

instagram.com/ingomarchurch

twitter.com/ingomarchurch

Then interact with our posts by liking, clicking a link in the post, commenting, and/or sharing a post.



• Pastor Greg Cox • Pastor Cyndi Bloise

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'Auction HEROES 2024' Online Service Auction

We are excited to announce our service auction for 2024 on Friday, February 23 from 6pm-9pm! The purpose is to raise funds for our Mission Outreach, while encouraging and enjoying the fellowship of all who participate.



Everyone is invited to donate their time and talents in the form of services which are then auctioned to the highest bidder through a special auction website. It is a great way to get to know other members of our church family and to support our Mission Outreach at the same time.

Be an "Auction Hero" Service Donor!

Think of a service you can provide. It can be any service or talent that you are willing to share. Ideas include babysitting, dog walking, preparing a special food item, a game night or pizza party, garden planning and/or work, tutoring, handyman work, yard clean up, making greeting

cards or photo albums, rides to the airport, providing music, art, or dance lessons, etc. All types of services are welcome! To donate your service, simply complete an online form available at the church website.

Be an "Auction Hero" Bidder and/or Monetary Donor!

Sign up to bid online and place bids on your favorite services during the auction. The auction will again be conducted electronically on our auction website and can be easily accessed from home via computer or smart phone. Monetary donations can also be made through the auction website, which will be available in January.

Mark your calendar, donate your services, and watch for more info coming soon at ingomarchurch.org and our weekly e-News!

Quick Notes

Launching a Legacy Campaign Update

We have received over \$1.95 million in donations to the Launching a Legacy Campaign!

These donations helped fund the following projects in 2023:

- Beverage stations in the Auxiliary Narthex and Fellowship Hall
- Sound system in Fellowship Hall
- Sanctuary lighting upgrades
- Retaining wall along West Ingomar Road
- MAC Room Air Handler
- WEC Catch Basin Project



Launching a Legacy
generation to generation

The following capital projects have already been approved for 2024:

- Replace Air Handlers in Fellowship Hall
- Replace flooring in the WEC building, including the Portico, Narthex, and Auxiliary Narthex
- CLC Catch Basin Project

Estimate of Giving Update

As of December 15, 130 families have submitted an Estimate of Giving card, for a total of \$864,374. More than 50 households are taking a step of faith and increasing their giving in 2024! Thank you all for your generosity and support of the ministries of Ingomar Church!

Angel Tree Success

On behalf of Keith Rust and the Missions Team, "Thank You" to those who donated a total of 60 "Angel Tree" gifts for the North Hills Community Outreach toy drive. Your generosity helped 60 local children have a Merry Christmas!

Meditation and Prayer Group Coming Soon

Providing a sacred space for individuals from all walks of life to come together, pause, and engage in practices that promote inner harmony and spiritual growth.

Merry Christmas from Frank and Pastor Cyndi

As a gift for each person in the church would be too expensive, Frank and Cyndi would like to thank you for your friendship and your faithfulness with the following gifts. Merry Christmas!

From Heifer Project – A Dream Basket (sheep, heifer, goat, rabbits, flock of chicks, training, and education) and a Gardener's Gift Basket (tree seedlings, rabbits, chickens, hive of bees, education in animal care, fertilization, and sustainable farming)

From Abukloi – a six month school sponsorship of 16-year-old, John Makot (<https://abukloi.outgiven.org/sponsored/profile/1785>).

Small Groups at Ingomar Church

In addition to our new discipleship groups, there are many existing, open small groups. Learn more at the church website.

Participate in Hands-On Mission Opportunities

Serve at World Vision on Jan. 4; the Mission Barn on Jan. 13; Global Links on Jan. 16; Xavier Personal Care on Jan. 17; and Daily Bread on Jan. 24. Visit ingomarchurch.org for more information.

Sanctuary Flowers

Given to the glory of God

January 7

Betty Lou McKinney in memory of Curry Sharlow

January 14

The Frantz Family in memory of Kathy Frantz and Dot Chronister

The family of Lee Chandler given in loving memory of Lee

January 21

Kelly Pernell in memory of her brother, Kirk Sharlow