

Welcome!

ADVENT III

December 15, 2013 +8:30 A.M. +++11:00 A.M.

"A TASTE OF WHAT IS TO COME" Begins 10 min. prior to Service
Silent Night, Holy Night (STILLE NACHT) No. 239
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (MENDELSSOHN) No. 240
Joy to the World (ANTIOCH) No. 246

ANNOUNCEMENTS Jan Baker, Lay Leader

ORGAN PRELUDE "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Johannes Brahms

*HYMN OF INTENTION "Blessed Be the God of Israel" (MERLE'S TUNE) No. 209

CALL TO WORSHIP AND BRINGING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST by Nathan Nettleton
(Please be seated and watch as the light of Christ illuminates the way on our journey through the season of Advent and toward the celebration of God's incarnation in Jesus.)

Leader: Out of the darkness God creates light. Into the darkness God comes in Jesus Christ, light of the world. In him we have become bearers of light. As such this is what we believe:

We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ—

God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn— who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair.

Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God.

Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven, when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfillment of God's desire.

For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

+++CHILDREN'S SERMON

FAITH STORY Act of Grace

OFFERING OFFERTORY + "Awaken and Prepare Us" Mark Hayes
Chancel Choir William Kaiser, Director

+++ "With Open Hearts, We are Waiting" Pepper Choplin
Joy Unlimited Steve Moore, Director

*DOXOLOGY No. 94 or See Below
"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PSALM READING Psalm 51:10-12 Pg.520 OT

SHARING OF CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

*HYMN OF CENTERING "The Holy Wings, O Savior" (BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR) No. 502

SILENT PRAYER, PASTORAL PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
The Lord's Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory forever. Amen.

+ANTHEM "Our Hope Is in Emmanuel" Victor C. Johnson

HEBREW SCRIPTURE 2 Samuel 12:1-13a Pg. 285 OT

SERMON The Trials of a King
3/5 in "Steep Hills Ahead" The Story Advent Mini-Series
Rev. Steve Stultz Costello

*HYMN OF MISSION "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (TRURO) No. 213

*BENEDICTION
*CHORAL RESPONSE + "May the Lord Bless You" Judy Hunnicutt
+++ "World Peace Canon" Donald Moore

*ORGAN POSTLUDE "Gottes Sohn ist kommen" Johann Gottfried Walther
*Please stand if you are able CCLI License #1596957

Next Sunday: The Story (Week 13): The King Who Had It All
SERIES QUESTION: How has God journeyed with you through your ups and downs?
Rev. Cara Stultz Costello 8:30- Joy Unlimited; 11:00-Chancel Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honoring Lauralee Stiffler on her Retirement Please join us on December 22nd to show our appreciation to Lauralee Stiffler for her 12 years of service at Faith UMC. A reception will be held in the Gathering Area after each service. If you would like to send a card or note of appreciation please drop it off in the basket in the church office reception area. Lauralee's position will be redefined with some of her responsibilities staying the same and some new roles added. Sue Capestrain has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant and will be introduced to the congregation in the beginning of January & in Faith Notes. Sue will begin on Jan. 13.

Young Adult Ministry Faith UMC's Young Adult group will be meeting on Monday nights, December 16 and 23 at 6:30pm. Any young adults and college students home on break are welcome! Contact Sarah Snyder for more information!

Faith UMC's Food Cupboard is running low! Our food cupboard is getting low again. We could use some canned and boxed goods like spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, canned fruit, and soups. Please drop your donation off in the wooden bin in the Gallery hallway.

EXPERIENCE ADVENT

Today is the 3rd Sunday of Advent! Pick up a flyer in the literature racks and outside the Family Life Center to learn about all the activities happening at Faith UMC as we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ! Advent & Christmas activities and prayer resources will also be available.

Advent Devotion Book For reflections and suggested activities for the season of Advent, check out Faith UMC's 2013 Advent Devotion Book. The 2013 Advent Book, Experience Overflowing Joy in God's Story In Our Story, will be available online. Printed copies available on request. Donations to help cover the printing costs are much appreciated!

Walking Towards Bethlehem (Advent Prayer Walk) is now available! Come walk the hallway through the Gathering Area, Gallery Hall, and Library Hall and prayerfully reflect on Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem anticipating the birth of Christ. How many laps will it take to walk this 70 mile journey at Faith UMC during Advent? How might reflecting on this walk help you to experience the coming of Christ this Advent?

Advent Study, Meeting the Messiah This Thursday, December 12 at 2pm in Room 5. See Kathy Schmucker for more information.

Christmas Caroling - Wednesday, December 18 Caroling begins at 6pm with a grab and go dinner! Imagine the fun we will have caroling through our church neighborhood? Join us for this evening of fun, fellowship, and outreach to the families in our church neighborhood!

Christmas Eve Services December 24 @ 5PM, 7PM, 9PM & 11PM
There will be many opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ for guests throughout the evening, including opportunities for hospitality, greeters, and coordinators to assist with the 7pm interactive family service. See Sandy Vaughn or Kathy Schmucker for more information.

Living Faith Contributors It is almost time for the 2nd Annual Living Faith Publication! This year, in an effort to be wise stewards of our budget, we are seeking contributors to help cover the cost of the printing. If you'd like to donate to this year's book, all contributions must be submitted by January 5th. (\$25 will include your name/business name; \$75 will include a 2x3.5 space which can include your business card or a message; i.e. In memory of...) Thank you to all who contribute to the creation of this ministry book. Questions? Contact Alison Wright at 330.526.8029 or Carmie Johnson, Communications Coordinator at 330.499.6040.

It's Time to Sign Up for Poinsettias! Each Christmas Eve, poinsettias are placed in the Sanctuary and Family Life Center and are purchased by the congregation in memory or in honor of a loved one. The cost is \$8.50/plant. Signup sheets are in the Gathering Area and outside the Family Life Center (by the Youth Room) and can be ordered until Thursday, December 19.



That holiday fruitcake may last until the next century, but your chance for a 2013 charitable gift deduction expires on December 31st! In accordance with IRS regulations, all tax deductible donations must be dated and delivered to the church on or before noon on December 31, 2013. If you would like to prepay your 2014 pledge before December 31, 2013, please send a note along with your prepaid payment. You will receive tax credit in 2013 and this amount will be applied to your 2014 pledge. 2014. It's not too late to submit your 2014 pledge card.

2013 Stewardship Focus - Tracking of Pledges in Bulletins			
		Member Units Pledging (Running Total)	Amount Pledged (Running Total)
Week of:	24-Nov	201	\$591,017
As of This Week	8-Dec	209	\$605,000
2012 Year End:		236	\$638,000

Worship Arts Study Update 4: What is the net staff increase over what we have now? *The net increase anticipated is one full time person in addition to the present number of staff positions we have now. There is the possibility that some of the part time positions could be combined and taken by one person. There is also the possibility that the present position of choir director/organist could be occupied by two persons, dividing the responsibilities, hours, compensation now presently assigned to the one position. In addition, all references to coordinated planning of worship found in the previous job descriptions have been transferred to the new Worship Coordinator position.*

Next Week's Question: How and why are we able to contemplate increased staff costs when our operating budget has been running at a deficit?

This Week at Faith UMC

Sunday

9:45 & 11
5:30 pm
6:00 pm

December 15

Sunday School
Joy Unlimited Youth Choir Practice
Refuge Youth Ministry

Monday

10:30 am
6:30 pm
7:00 pm
7:00 pm
7:00 pm
7:00 pm

December 16

Monday Women's Bible Study, *The Story*, W Parlor
The Story Young Adults, Rm 5
Men's Open Basketball, FLC
The Story Digging Deeper, W Parlor
Covenant Bible Study, Rm 16
Meditation Class, Rm 8

Tuesday

6:00 am
9:00 am
9:00 am
9:30 am
6:30 pm
7:00 pm

December 17

Men's Prayer Group, Balcony
Library Volunteers
Quilts to Share, Rms 5 & 6
Celebration Bells Rehearsal, Family Life Center
Finance Meeting, Conference Room
Boy Scouts, RH/FL

Wednesday

9:00 am
5:00 pm
5:15 pm
6:00 pm
6:30 pm
6:45 pm
7:00 pm
7:30 pm

December 18

Staff Meeting
Carol Choir, Choir Room
Cherub Choir, Rm 8
Wednesday Night Dinner, RH
Sewing for Missions, RH
Faith Connections: Christmas Caroling
The Story Continued, Parlor
Chancel Choir

Thursday

9:00 am
1:00 pm
2:00 pm
2:00 pm
7:00 pm
7:30 pm

December 19

Counter's Meeting, Rm 8
Alzheimer's Support Group, Rm 8
Advent Study, Rm 5
Faith Stitchers, Parlor
Trustees, Conf. Rm
Circle of Love, Parlor

Friday

7:00 am

December 20

December 21

Men's Life Study, Variety's Restaurant

welcome to the journey.

No matter where you are in your faith journey, there is a place for you here. You may find this bulletin helpful as you explore all the happenings at Faith UMC. Below are some of our ongoing activities. Please don't be afraid to ask questions – our members-in-ministry and staff are eager to help you plug in to where God is calling.

Sunday School (9:45am and 11:00am)

Children (*Babies & Waddlers – Grades 5*)

Stop by the Children's Welcome Station near the Sanctuary and Family Life Center to sign-in, make their nametags, and find information!

Nursery – Room 18

Preschool Ages 3-5 – Room 20

Grades K-2 – Room 6

Grades 3-5 – Room 8

Youth (*Grades 6-12*) "Out-of-the-Box" in the Youth Room

Adults

9:45: *The Story*: Faith Meets Life in the West Parlor
9:45: Faith Bible Study: Genesis to Revelation in the Conference Rm
11:00 *The Story* in Room 16

Small Groups & Classes

Several groups meet during the week for discussion, prayer, community, digging deeper into God's Word, exploring questions of faith...All are welcome! Visit the link below for more information and get connected at Faith! It is not too late to get involved in a group! Interested in forming a new group? Please contact Kathy Schmucker.
www.faithum.weebly.com/small-groups.html

Wednesday Night Faith Connections

Every Wednesday, everyone is invited to come together for fellowship and a free dinner at 6pm! Programs and small groups are available for people of all ages following the dinner.

5:00/5:15pm - Children's Choir

5:00 pm – Carol Choir Practice (Grades 3-5)

5:15 pm – Cherub Choir Practice (Grades K-2)

6:00 pm – Dinner for Everyone!

6:30/7:00 - Programs for children and adults following dinner!

The Story & Bible Study Resources

We are currently participating in the church-wide Study and Worship Series, *The Story*. This series walks us through the Bible chronologically for 31-weeks and it provides the opportunity for people of all ages (children, youth and adults) to experience the Bible in a new, fresh way. Copies of the different versions of the *The Story* are available for children, youth, and adults at *The Story* cart in the Gathering Area. Visit our website devotions for adult and families to help you connect to *The Story*.

Check out the Bible resources page for Bible Apps, translation charts and other Bible story resources.

Last Sunday's Worship Attendance

8:30am: 110 9:45am: 113 11:00am: 155 TOTAL: 378



December 15, 2013

Co-Pastors: Revs. Cara & Steve Stultz Costello

Organist: William Kaiser **Acolyte:**+++Addison Schuster & Lauren Hobe

Liturgist: +Mary Jane Fletcher +++ Sam Purses

Greeters: +++Sam & Teresa Purses

Today's altar flowers are given by Sherry & Noble Carpenter in memory of the departed members of their family.

Worship Services: Sundays at 8:30AM, 9:45AM & 11:00AM
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www.faithumchurch.org

