

Fairmont United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18th, 2016

8:00 AM

* - You are invited to stand at these times.

(Hymn numbers over # 2000 are from "The Faith We Sing" supplement)

We Gather as God's People

Prelude and Candle Lighting

A Word of Prophecy Micah 5:2-5a

We Light the Fourth Advent Candle of Peace

We light this candle as a symbol of the Prince of Peace.

May the visitation of the Holy Spirit, O God, make us ready

for the coming of Jesus, our hope and joy. Let us sing together,

"Light the Advent Candle" (verse 4) # 2090

* Greeting One Another in Christ (with a nod or a handshake)

* Call to Worship by Nancy C. Townley

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: This is the fourth Sunday of Advent,

a time to rejoice in the wondrous things that God is doing.

People: Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world.

Leader: The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presence,

but for the awareness of God's loving gift to us –

the gift of the Christ child.

People: Help slow us down, Lord, that we may realize that your gift of love is at the center of our lives and our celebrations.

Leader: Thanks be to God who again reminds us of God's eternal love.

People: Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive your blessed gift. Amen.

* Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" # 196

Opening Prayer by Nancy C. Townley

Lord of all life and all seasons, help us open our hearts to hear the words of promise and love that you send to us. Like Joseph, may we trust in your abiding love and power. Prepare us to receive your gift of grace and peace. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

8:00 Agape Choir "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"

For All of God's Children "Where Children Belong" # 2233 (twice)

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination (in unison)

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25 8:00 Dick Adams

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Beyond Our Comfort Zone"

Response Hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter" # 221

We Respond to God's Word with Thanksgiving

Our Time of Prayer

Reception of New Members

Baptismal Covenant I (p. 33-39)

Birthdays, Announcements and Opportunities for Fellowship and Service

Our Offering

Offertory

*Doxology "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" # 94

*Prayer of Dedication

*The Lord's Prayer # 895

We Go Forth To Serve God and Our Neighbors

* Dismissal with Blessing By Joanne Carlson Brown

Leader: Look, a young woman is with child and shall bear a son!

He shall be called Emmanuel.

People: We go forth with anticipation and longing.

Leader: Share the good news! Emmanuel – God with us, is coming.

People: We go with joy and hope, trusting in the promises of God.

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

* Hymn "A Star Shone Bright" # 3051

* Postlude

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. ²⁰As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²²Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

²³*Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,*

And they will call him, Emmanuel.

(*Emmanuel* means "God with us.")

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.



Worship Attendance on

December 11, 2016

8:00 Worship: 36

10:30 Worship: 82

Total in Worship: 118

Sunday School Leaders/Students: 32

Welcome to Worship

It is a joy to welcome you to worship today. Thank you for joining us as we worship and are blessed by our Lord. We are glad you are with us today!

Our mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our vision: Resounding God's Grace!

Please sign the **Ritual of Friendship** pads when they are handed out by the ushers. After everyone in the pew has had a chance to sign them, please return them to near the center aisle.

Nursery Care is staffed and available for children, 4 years of age and younger, every Sunday morning during the 8:00 and 10:30 Worship Services. Adults are asked to accompany and sign in their child/children. The Nursery is located on the 1st floor of the educational wing.

Children's Bulletins can be found in the narthex, located in the manila envelopes attached to the outside of the plastic boxes. Following the service, please return crayons to the Ziploc bag, clip the bag to the clipboard and return to the box.

Thank you!

Busy Bags can be found on the Busy Bag Tree in the narthex.

Bibles, large print hymnals, and hearing amplification devices are available in the narthex. Hearing devices are available from the ushers.

Texts of Pastor Tony's sermons are available from the ushers for persons who wish to have one to follow during the sermon or to pass on to others.

Our church's **Unisex Handicapped Accessible Restroom** is located near the elevator off the Fellowship Hall in church basement.

Gluten-free Communion wafers are available for those with allergies. If you would prefer one, please ask your communion server for one. It is the tradition of the United Methodist Church to serve grape juice for Communion.

Sunday Morning Fellowship Time: Homemade caramel/cinnamon rolls, juice and coffee are served in the Fellowship Hall from 8:45-10:00 am. The Jayme Balcom and Ross Balcom families are serving today. Please be helpful to them in every way. Our thanks to them. (Remember, all profits go to the youth program)

Hospitality Coffee: is being served in the Narthex. Enjoy some refreshments and fellowship! Thanks to Lois Fransen and her team for serving. (Profits go to the youth program.)

OUR PRAYERS

Of joy: Happy Birthday to Nina Deinhart (12/20), Jo Smith (12/22).
Congratulations to Paul & Katie Hein on the birth of Stella Kate, born 12/15/16.

Of concern: Shirley McCoy (Cindy/Gene Tonne's mother), Roxanne Roatch

Our joys & concerns for the previous 4 weeks: Aries Shefrate, Lorraine Van Note, Jerry McGowan, Paige Redenious, Sue Nelson, Ruth Fink, John Fink, Charlie Grunewald, Greg Scheff, the families of Ty Kotewa and Ruth Schultz; Stephen Newnum in Brazil, leadership of our country & other countries, leadership of our church.

Pray for our Military: Caleb Witham/National Guard in Bagram Afghanistan (Emily O'Connor's friend), Ethan Doolittle, Army/Basic training in Ft. Jackson, SC. (Dawn Doolittle's nephew), Riley & Tonya Jahnke/Army, grandson of Karen Meier, stationed in New York; EM2(SW) Lance Broolsma/Navy/San Diego on Destroyer, USS Wayne E. Meyer ddg-108, son of Denise and Dale Baruth, grandson of Dick & Bev Fenske.

Calendar

Sunday, December 18

Welcome New Members
7:30 am. Hospitality Coffee in Narthex
8:00 am. Worship
9:00 am. Coffee & Rolls in F'ship Hall
9:15 am. Sunday School (K-Adult)
10:30 am. Worship-Children's Program
11:45 am. Club Sandwich-Asian Palace

Monday, December 19

9:00 am. Exercise Group
12:30 pm. Yoga.

Tuesday, December 20

9:00 am. Exercise Group
2:00 pm. Lakeview Communion
5:15 pm. Yoga
7:00 pm. Cub Scouts

Wednesday, December 21

8:30 am. Staff Meeting
9:00 am. Exercise Group
12:30 pm. Yoga
1:00 pm. Bible Study
5:00 pm. Wed. Night Supper-Scalloped Potatoes & Ham
5:45 pm. Agape Choir
6:00 pm. Confirmation/Mentors Meeting (8th & 9th gr)
6:30 pm. Chancel Choir
7:00 pm. 9th gr. Confirmation meet at 6:00 pm. with Mentors

Thursday, December 22

12:00 Al-ANON- Fireside
2:00 pm. BAM
5:15 pm. Yoga
6:00 pm. Refresh Worship

Friday, December 23

9:00 am. Exercise Group
12:30 pm. Yoga

Saturday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE
4:30 p.m. Worship
7:00 pm. Worship

Sunday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY
7:30 am. Hospitality Beverages in Narthex
8:00 am. Worship
9:00 am. NO Coffee & Rolls
9:15 am. NO Church School
10:30 am. Worship
1:00 pm. Private gathering F'ship Hall

Monday, December 26

Church Offices are closed

Today's Worship

Ushers

8:00 Brian Meyer, Dustin Meyer
10:30 Orville & Irene Deling, Gene Cross, Rick Milbrandt

North Door Greeters

8:00 Ralph & Charlene McMillan
10:30 Neal Barber & Vangie Barber

South Door Greeters

8:00 Bob & Naomi Koch
10:30 Warren Beaty

Acolytes

8:00 Laura Thompson, Riley Shumski
Riley Shumski
10:30 Maddy Schwiager, Carson Toomer

Scripture Readers

8:00 Dick Adams
10:30 Children's Program

Special Music

8:00 Agape Choir
10:30 Children's Christmas Program

Liturgist: Joleen Fink

Organist: Ann Wehner

Media Team

8:00 Sherman Kumba
10:30 Jamie Thompson, Sam Schwiager, Dylan Kennedy

Office Hours: Monday-Friday

8:00 am. - 12 Noon, 1:00-3:30 pm.

Or by appointment 235.5579

Website address: www.umcfairmont.org

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Events

Keep Bringing in those Receipts!!

Hy-Vee total - \$20,130 Round XII
Fareway total - \$125,462 Round V
(only receipts from the Fairmont stores please)



Mitten Tree – The Mitten Tree is now up in the Narthex. Winter weather is upon us and we hope that you will remember the local families who are in need of warm mittens, hats and scarves. These items are distributed to the local schools.



Flowers – the rose on the Communion Table this morning is in honor of Stella Kate Hein, born 12/15/16. Stella is the daughter of Paul & Katie Hein, granddaughter of Richard & Gloria Hein.

Save the Date – January 15. Beef Commercials – this is an annual fundraiser for the youth program.

Christmas Baskets – We are again putting together Christmas Baskets for those who might be needing help in making Christmas a little merrier for their families. If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause, please let the office know.

New Members – today we are welcoming new members to our church family. They are: Larry Olsen, Jenny Lewis, TJ Lewis, Dale Gatton, Terry Gatton, Dakota Malo, Jeff Schwab, Sheryl Schwarz, Anthony Thompson, Lenagene Prafke. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome. We are glad they are here.

Confirmation Mentor & Mentee Event - Wednesday, Dec 21st

6-8 pm: Mentor/Mentee Gathering in the Youth Room
8:-10 pm: If interested head to Fairmont Arena following to spectate Broomball.

Movie Night! Wednesday, Dec 28th - 6-10 p.m. - Join us for supper in the Youth Room, viewing of War Room, and discussion to follow.

Winter Wonderland Youth - Saturday, Dec 31st- Sunday, Jan 1st

Lock-In style retreat at Lake Okoboji United Methodist Camp. We will leave Fairmont UMC Dec 31st @ 12:45pm and return Jan 1st @ 11:15am. \$25 per student. Permission forms have been mailed or go to the website for the permission form and schedule. We are in need of a male chaperone, if interested contact Jenny Lewis.

Connection Groups Winter Quarter - It's time to start planning for our Winter Quarter of Connection Groups here at Fairmont UMC.

We're looking for folks interested in choosing curriculum and leading a small group February-April. If interested please contact Jenny Lewis.

Thank you – we would like to thank our church family for all of your cards, calls, plant, HyVee gift card and most of all, all your love and prayers. We appreciate all of it so much. It makes my heart so full of love just knowing how much all of you care and share your love. Gene is starting a new treatment so we are hopeful and praying that it will work for a long time – Jackie & Gene Pendergast



Fairmont United Methodist Church

119 East Second Street
Fairmont, Minnesota

(507) 235-5579 www.umcfairmont.org



8:00 a.m. Worship

Resounding God's Grace!

- *Relating with love and grace*
- *Radically welcoming our guests*
- *Reaching out to our communities in love*

December 18, 2016

