

## WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

### LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

The Erdman Family

O God, we light the first candle of Advent.

(Light the first candle.)

We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.

The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down. He called God's people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned like clay by God, the potter. This Advent, we call out to God.

Let us pray: Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.

\*ADVENT CAROL UMH #196  
*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

### \*CALL to WORSHIP

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!

**The light shines even in the places where shadows touch our lives.**

Rejoice then, for Christ's presence lives among us!

**And brings light to our world!**

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*CAROL *"The First Noel"* UMH #245 vs. 1&2

### AN ADVENT LITANY

To find the child, one must see the star.

**To see the star, one must go out into the darkness, enter even into the emptiness of the heart's dark wounds.**

Only in the darkness are such stars seen.

CAROL UMH #238 vs. 1&3

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

To find the child, one must hear the angels.

**To hear the angels, one must listen in silence and in solitude; to listen in the perfect wordlessness of attentive adoration.**

Only in such stillness are the angels heard.

CAROL *"Away in a Manger"* UMH #217 vs. 1&2

To find the child, one must enter the stable.

**To enter the stable, one must decline all palaces, all safety, all defenses and fortifications.**

Only in such humility is the stable entered.

CAROL *"What Child Is This"* UMH # 219 vs. 1&3

To find the child, one must witness the birth.

**To witness the birth one must be awakened to the heart of all things beating in one's soul; to awaken to the light of God shining through the touch of one's hands and the smile of one's eyes.**

Only in such awakening, will the birth truly be seen.

**To find the child, seek the darkness, lay your heart open and discover therein, light unconquered.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT UMH #251 vs. 1&3

*"Go Tell It on the Mountain"*

### JOYS, CONCERNS and GOD MOMENTS

### SILENT PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### OUR 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.**

**Amen.**

### SERMON IN CAROLS

*"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"* #218 vs. 1&2

*"Angels From the Realms of Glory"* #220 vs. 1&2

*"While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night"*

#236 vs.1&6

*"He Is Born"* #228 vs.1&2

*"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"* #229

*"Silent Night"* #239 vs. 1,3,4

### COMMUNION

CAROL UMH #242 vs. 1&3  
"Love Came Down at Christmas"

#### RECEIVING of our GIFTS

In response to the promise of abundant life God calls us to share our resources with those in need. In that spirit of generosity, let us offer our gifts.

\*GLORIA DOXOLOGY (*Refrain from 238 UMH*)

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Loving God, we offer these gifts with joy. May they be like oil, which feeds the light of your love in a world so familiar with darkness. In giving, illumine our hearts and set our lives ablaze for You. Amen.**

\*CAROL BENEDICTION UMH #246 vs. 1&4  
"Joy to the World"

#### FAITH FAMILY FINANCES – November 19, 2017

Year to date budget	\$178,584.54
Year to date giving	\$148,178.60
Needed weekly to meet our budget	\$ 3,720.50
Offering	\$ 628.75
Attendance	50

**COWBOY CHURCH** – today at 6:00 pm at Cherry Grove UMC.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN POTLUCK** - All are invited for a potluck dinner on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Faith UMC. Chicken will be furnished.

**NO PARISH COUNCIL** for the month of December.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE** meeting on 12/7 at 7:00 p.m.

**BAKE SALE & LUNCHEON** - The Fountain United Methodist Church Women's Bake Sale and Lunch will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> from 11-2 pm. White elephants, Santa at 1:30 pm, crafts and baked goods.

**ALS BAKE SALE** - Christmas Bake Sale for ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) Fundraising Event scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> during Christmas on Historic Broadway at the Community Center in Spring Valley from 1:00-5:00 PM. Cherry Grove UMW

**MAPLE LEAF PARISH CHURCH CONFERENCE** will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Faith UMC on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Cherry Grove UMC, Faith UMC, and Fountain UMC will meet to approve the church leadership, membership, and compensation for pastors.

**SEMCAC** will have a Christmas ham dinner on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Please call for reservations by December 13 at 346-7795 or 346-2111. Cost: 60 and over is \$4.00 and under 60 is \$7.00.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** - You're invited to FUMC's Sunday School Christmas Program on December 17<sup>th</sup> during the 9:00 a.m. church service. Join friends and family for Christmas treats and fellowship after the service.

**BELL RINGING** - Salvation Army Bell Ringing. Your presence alone will entice someone to put money in the red kettle. This is a great volunteer opportunity for families. Sign up today in church or go to <http://www.springvalley.kiwanisone.org>. Look under "News" to the right and then follow links. Most of the money stays in Fillmore County. Let's help our neighbors in need.

**CHRISTMAS DINNER** – Sign up sheets are located on the bulletin board. Pies, salads, kitchen workers and clean up crew along with delivery of meals needed. This annual event is held at noon on Christmas Day at Faith UMC and sponsored by the Spring Valley Area Ministerial and open to all.

# FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT A CAROL SUNDAY DECEMBER 3, 2017



**The People Of  
Fountain, Cherry Grove and Spring Valley  
In Ministry Together With  
Rev. David Lieder & Rev. Deanna Woodward**