

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT                    *“O Holy Night”*    Bell Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In the beginning, there was the chaos of trouble and fear. Then, when uncertainty seemed the only certain thing, and the light at the end of the tunnel turned out to be just our imagination, God said, "Let there be light."

**And there was Hope.**

*[light first Advent candle]*

In the course of time people became agitated. There were uncertain intentions, hostile actions, conflicting motives, restless hearts, and everywhere busy-ness and noise. Then, when the agitation was at its height, when it seemed that conflict was everywhere and the noise was unbearable, God said, "Let there be light."

**And there was Peace.**

*[light the second Advent candle]*

The light of peace is in the midst of Advent. In a world where the fragmentation of pieces is more frequent than the wholeness of peace, and hostility or clutter seem to fill every waking moment, this candle brings us again to the longing of our hearts - to our God who says:

**"Be still and know Peace.**

\* UNISON CALL to WORSHIP

**In this season of bleak sun and chilling wind, a voice of infinite warmth and tenderness is heard: "I shall comfort my people." It is God come to us in splendid mercy, in human form.**

**Let God gather us as a shepherd sweeps up a lamb into his arms, and there rest in Joy. Let us worship the Good Shepherd who gathers us up with a divine embrace.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*HYMN            *“People, Look East”*            UMH #202

\*AN ADVENT LITANY

How will we think of you, Christ who is coming?

**A child at a mother’s breast, a still, small voice empowering those too young, too old, too wounded to speak.**

How will we think of you, Christ who is coming?

**A star shining in the night, making paths for those who have lost their way, giving new vision to all who search.**

How will we think of you, Christ who is coming?

**A Word proclaiming hope, a prayer for justice and unity among all peoples, call for the Kingdom that comes.**

How will we think of you, Christ who is coming?

**We will call you Immanuel: God-with-us, God among us. We will call you our peace and through you, we will give comfort and strength. We will sing the good news of Christ’s holy birth!**

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

BAPTISM OF CORA ARLENE BOETTCHER

Daughter of Chad and Amanda Boettcher

Sponsors: Cate & Andy Ness

CONGREGATIONAL PLEDGE            UMH #44

Members of the household of faith, I commend to your love and care, Cora, whom we this day recognize as a member of the family of God. Will you endeavor so to live that she may grow in the knowledge and love of God, through our Savior Jesus Christ?

**With God’s help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that Cora, surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

ANTHEM            *“On a Still Silent Night”*            Bell Choir

JOYS, CONCERNS and GOD MOMENTS

SILENT PRAYERS

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**

**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 the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN    *“In the Bleak Midwinter”*            UMH #221

SCRIPTURE            Matthew 3:1-12

MEDITATION            *“Strange Comfort”*

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.

*“Carol of the Bells”*                            Bell Choir

\*DOXOLOGY    (*Gloria Refrain*)            UMH #238

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Loving God, we give thanks for the visions and dreams that you share with your people. We offer these gifts in response to your abundant blessings and ask that you use them and the commitment they represent to share your good news with all the world. Amen.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Jarvis Apland (*Profession of Faith*) son Dominic Laura & Brian Danielson (*Transfer from Our Savior’s Lutheran*) daughters Hailey & Addison Fahy & Barbara Schleusner (*Transfer from Wycoff UMC*)

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Brothers and sisters, I commend to your love and care these persons whom, we this day receive into the membership of this congregation. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church and bid you welcome to this congregation of The United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service.

With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

\*CLOSING HYMN UMH #216  
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

\*BENEDICTION

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

**FAITH FAMILY FINANCES** – December 3, 2017

Year to date budget	\$182,305.04
Year to date giving	\$157,176.60
Needed weekly to meet our budget	\$ 3,720.50
Offering	\$ 8,998.00
Attendance	68

**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.

**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.

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.

**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.

#### THIS WEEKS SCHEDULE

12/12	7:00 pm Trustee Meeting
12/13	7:00 pm Confirmation
12/14	6:00 pm Staff Parish Meeting
	6:30 pm Finance Meeting
	7:00 pm Church Council
	7:30 pm Church Conference
12/17	9:00 am Worship – Children's Program
	10:00 am Coffee & Fellowship
	4:00 pm Scouts Pack Meeting'

#### POINSETTIAS

We would like your help in creating a Poinsettia Garden during the month of December. Please inform the church office as to whom the poinsettia is in memory of so that it can be recorded in the bulletin. You may bring it to the church or have it delivered. Thank you.

#### IN MEMORY

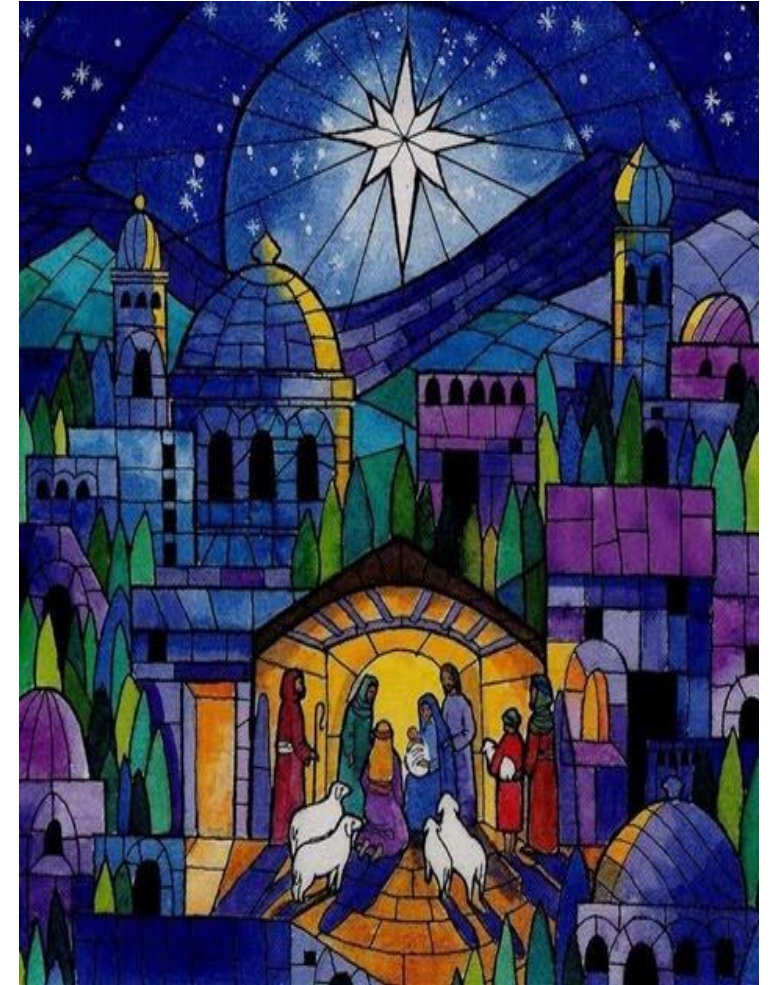
*In memory of family and friends  
The Ron Merkel Family*

*In memory of Loren & Bernice Terbeest  
And Arne & Millie Thompson  
From Larry & Arlys Terbeest*

*In memory of our parents  
Avery & Josephine Stuckey  
Meryl Young & Helen Young  
From Gaylord & Naomi Stuckey*

# FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT  
DECEMBER 10, 2017



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