

- December 2—Advent Begins Pastor Greg Ciesluk preaching
“The Journey: From Nazareth to Bethlehem, 1:”
“Nazareth: The Annunciation”
- December 3—Lydia Project - Knitting, Nook & Cranny—1:00 PM
- December 4— Emmaus Potluck 6:00 PM
- December 5—Advent Family Night (families with children 5th grade and younger) 5:30 PM
- December 5—Choir practices 7:15 PM in the Chapel
- December 5—Confirmation meets, 7:15 PM
- December 6—Trustees, 6:30 PM

Prayer Chain—If you need prayer for any reason, **Carole Evans** at 507-334-1957 or e-mail her at caroleannjean@gmail.com.

Next Week

- December 9—Christian Pipers Bake Sale, items by 8:00 AM
- December 9—Cluster Conference at Hope UMC; 2:00 PM
- December 11—Finance, 6:30 PM
- December 13—M & M Circle, TLC Bags packed 9:30 AM

Looking Ahead

- December 16—Community Christmas Dinner 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Parlor/Coffee Fellowship hosts: Marlin & Phyllis Wegner

Ushers: Jack & Jackie Luedke
 Tom & Kim Bossmann

Greeters: Brad & Elizabeth Prange, Andrew & Ella

Lay Reader: Nick Goebel

Acolyte: Miles Schiffer

Musicians: Doug Madow—Piano
 Kelly Shimmin— Drums
 Chris Schiffer — Bass
 Kelly Landsverk — Choir Director

Tech: Grant Lammin, Dale Hauptli

Nursery: Care available for ages 3 & under—Kim Luedke

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

First Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 9 am

We Gather to Praise God

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Lord Jesus, in this unfolding season of Advent,
 come among us and bless us,
 that with a reverent sense of your presence,
 our hearts and lives may be open to your Word
 and the grace you offer at the Lord’s table,
 that we may be ready for your coming in glory
 and our lives may reflect the promised new creation. Amen.

*BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*OPENING CHORUS *“Stay Awake! Be Ready!”*

*LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Led by Chris and Julie Schiffer Family

As we light this first candle,
 the season of Advent gets underway.

**We begin making our preparations for
 the coming of Christ.**

A branch will come forth from the stump of Jesse.
The long-awaited Messiah will come to deliver us.

Dare to hope in God!

The Promised One will establish his eternal Kingdom!
 Watch!

**We will watch and wait with joyful anticipation
 and willing obedience!**

Fear not! The favor of the Lord is upon you!

We will offer ourselves to God with an exuberant, “Yes!”

Rejoice, people of God, your Savior is drawing near!

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE

UMH #211 (v. 1-2, 4-5)

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

*OPENING PRAYERS

ANTHEM "A Tiny Child Will Come" Choir

To Proclaim God's Word

FIRST LESSON Jeremiah 33:14-16 Bible, OT, p. 699

*GOSPEL LESSON Luke 1:26-38 Bible, NT, p. 53

A TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

MESSAGE Pastor Greg Ciesluk

"The Journey: From Nazareth to Bethlehem, I:"

"Nazareth: The Annunciation"

To Respond in Faith

*HYMN "To a Maid Engaged to Joseph" UMH #215 (v. 1-3)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY "Breath of Heaven" Shari VanDerVeen, soloist

*ADVENT DOXOLOGY Tune: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

To Anticipate the Great Messianic Banquet

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

*BREAKING OF THE BREAD & SHARING OF THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

To Be Sent Forth to Serve

*HYMN "To a Maid Engaged to Joseph" UMH #215 (v. 4-6)

*BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

From Security Team: Doors from the parking lot & 4th Avenue will be locked after Sunday Worship service starts. North doors stay open.

Today, we mark the beginning of a new Christian year.

Advent comes from Latin which means "coming." The Advent season begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends at sunset on Christmas Eve, proclaims and prepares us for the comings of Christ: in final victory at the end of time, in our daily experiences through Word and Holy Spirit, and in his humble birth in Bethlehem. The colors of Advent are purple, emphasizing royalty and penitence; or blue, emphasizing joyful anticipation.

District Cluster Conference

Our District Superintendent Cynthia Williams will be leading a District Cluster Conference on **Sunday, December 9 at 2 pm at Hope UMC in Faribault.** This is a gathering of laity and clergy from nearby United Methodist congregations. We will fellowship and worship together and share how God is at work in our congregations. Pastor Cynthia will be sharing a message. The gathering will last 90 minutes long and all church members are welcome. Fourth Avenue UMC leaders are encouraged attend.

Apportionments Update

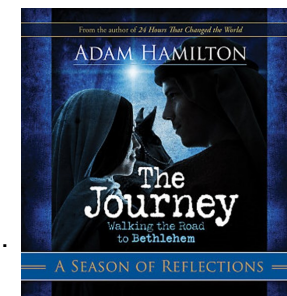
Our church has had a proud history of paying 100% of its Conference apportionments. Every UM congregation is apportioned a fair share of the Minnesota Conference budget based on its annual operating expenses and size relative to other congregations. This year's apportionment amount for Fourth Avenue UMC is \$22,315.92. We have paid \$8,801 as of November 18th. It is hoped we can raise the additional \$13,514.92 in December to pay our apportionments in full, as we did last year. Please consider "catching up" or an extra gift in December, mark "Apportionments" in the memo.

The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem—

A Season of Reflections

\$10 puts you on a "walk-about" to Bethlehem in book form

"Take a Christmas break" and join your friends at FAUMC as Pastor Greg guides us through a four week devotional based on the most joyous event in history, as written by author & pastor Adam Hamilton. Pick one up today.



M & M Circle Packs TLC Bags December 13th, 9:30 AM in Parlor. Everyone is welcome to pack the TLC bags and go out to lunch at Bashers. Linda Hellevik & Jeanne Michel serving coffee.