



SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**First United Methodist Church**  
**516 Kellogg Ave.**  
**Ames, Iowa 50010**  
**515-232-2750 [www.fumcomes.org](http://www.fumcomes.org)**  
**8:30 & 11:00**  
**December 10, 2017**

## THE GATHERING:

*Centering Words:*

*Prepare for the promise. Prepare for love to change everything.*

*Prepare for rough places to become plains and mountains to be made low...  
all so we can see the promised presence of Christ.*

*--Mary Scifres in "Words for Worship"*

*This week in our prayers for the world let us remember especially the people of  
Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal.*

## OPENING VOLUNTARIES

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Timothy Albrecht

"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

Peter Pindar Stearns

"Pastorale" (From the Christmas Cantata)

Arcangelo Corelli

"Prelude on a Luther Hymn"

Gordon Young

*As this music is offered as prayer, let us be sensitive to the Holy Spirit  
who prepares and opens us to connect with God in Christ today.*

## GREETING, SHARING NEWS OF THE CHURCH ALIVE

Welcome, members, friends & visitors - please fill in the ritual of  
friendship pad, pass it to your neighbor, and then return it to its starting  
place. If you are new and would like more information, please indicate on  
the friendship pad and also stop at the Welcome Center in the narthex to  
pick up a Welcome packet.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### CALL TO WORSHIP

You come to us, alive and present in that Word clothed in human  
flesh,

**So we might hear those songs about forgiveness,  
echoing with joy.**

You come to us, Shepherd of God's people, feeding us with your  
peace,

**So we might go out and offer the bread of hope to the lost.**

You come to us, Spirit of comfort, welcoming us into the reign,

**Where righteousness is our best friend,  
where justice lives right next door.**

Come, let us worship God!

**Praise the Lord!**

**HYMN**

No.211

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"      verses 1, 2, and 5, 6, 7

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY**

Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for the hope, peace, joy, and love of God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of Jesus, and through acts of hope, peace, joy, and love. Today we light the first candle of hope and this second candle, the candle of peace.

We wait. We wait not because we do not know the story of Jesus, and not because you, O God, are not already and always here. We wait because to wait is to expect something more. To wait is to expect that the story might enter our hearts and our world in new ways, to bring the change for which we long.

---Light two candles (two blue) ---

As we light the second candle of peace, we remember the stories of times you have been our comfort, when you have heard the cries for justice, for certainty, for peace, and you have led us home; and we know we can trust that you are leading us forward, as we wait for peace to be born, anew in us. **Amen.**

**SONG**

No. 2090

"Light the Advent Candle"      verses 1 and 2

**A TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN****ANTHEM**

**8:30** Dr. Jonathan Sturm - J.S. Bach: Andante from Sonata in A minor  
**11:00** "Waiting" Pepper Choplin  
 Chancel Choir Acc: Barb Mittman

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Isaiah 40:1-11

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

"He Shall Feed His Flock/Come Unto Me"  
 from G.F. Handel's The Messiah - soloist, Sadie Etzel

**THE GOSPEL**

Mark 1:1-8

**WITNESS TO THE WORD**

"Comfort"

Rev. Fred Lewis

**A MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION & PERSONAL COMMITMENT****PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

for Advent contemplation

In the songs of children,  
 In the soothing touch of a nurse,  
 In the gentle words of a teacher,  
 In the caress of a grandparent,

In soft falling snow and in beach breezes,  
You comfort us, God of our salvation, often in ways we never  
notice or we take for granted.  
Yet, you are always there for us,  
Smoothing our ways,  
Rebuilding our lives,  
Creating communities.  
And so, in the silence, we give you thanks for such comfort.

*---Let all pray in silence---*

We would ask for comfort, God of Advent hope,  
For those who toss and turn in worry's bed,  
For those who wander down the alleys of loneliness,  
For those who are in exile in grief.  
We would ask that you clear a way,  
For all who struggle with addictions,  
For those fleeing from war and looking for peace,  
For children who cry from hunger,  
And parents who weep from frustration.  
We would ask that you make us sharers of grace,  
To neighbors with whom we disagree,  
To people we have hurt and forgotten,  
To those left by the side of society.  
And in silence, we would pray for those who need your comfort:

*---Let all pray in silence---*

All of our prayers, those spoken aloud as well as in silence,  
Are offered in the name of Jesus, the comfort of Advent and all  
days. **Amen.**

## **OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS**

### **OFFERTORY**

**8:30** J.S. Bach: Gavotte from Partita for solo violin in E major

**11:00** "As Lately We Watched" (Austrian Carol) arr: Alice Jordan

### **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

"A Christmas Doxology" (tune to carol "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly")

**Glorify be to God the Father, glorify be to Christ the Son,  
glorify to the Holy Spirit, glorify to the Three-in-One.**

**Here we offer to you gladly all the gifts that you impart,  
as we glory in your Presence, giving from a grateful heart.**

*---Brenda J. Heard.*

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**May the gifts we offer smooth the way for those who  
struggle, rebuild the lives of those who have fallen, and  
bring grace and comfort to all your people, loving God, we  
pray. Amen.**

## DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

HYMN

No. 220

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

arr: Paul Manz

*Let us be aware this musical offering is a statement of faith to send us from worship into service. Please be respectful of those who choose to remain to listen.*

## LEAVING FOR SERVICE

### Alternative Gift Market - Missions Committee

Looking for a gift for the person who has so much? Consider purchasing an alternative gift. Purchase a meal at Food at First, construction materials to stop degradation of watersheds in Afghanistan, or solar cooking equipment for women in Kenya. Each donation you make funds a great project and comes with a holiday card and a description of what the gift funded. It's a great gift!

All donations are tax deductible. Just ask for a receipt. Look for the Alternative Gift Market brochures in the fellowship hall between services Dec. 10 and 17. With over twenty local, national, and international options, you're sure to find a project for anyone's interests.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT...The Ames Choral Society presents a Christmas concert on Sunday, Dec. 10, 3 pm, at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 209 Colorado in Ames. Directed by Steve Hoifeldt the concert includes traditional and contemporary Christmas and seasonal choral arrangements. The audience will join in a carol sing-along and enjoy a reception after the concert. Tickets are \$12 in advance; \$15 at the door. Contact 515-232-5545 or [www.ameschoral.org](http://www.ameschoral.org) and Facebook.

### A Very Up with Puppets Christmas!

**Sunday, December 10 at 6:30pm**

**Please join the Puppets as they celebrate the holidays with songs, dowel rods, and some special black light performances. Meet some of our newest puppet friends who can't wait to meet you!  
Invite your family and friends and join us!**

### Christmas Caroling

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 13. Everyone is encouraged to come to our Wednesday Night Meal - soups, sandwiches, and salad from 6-6:30. We will divide into groups and leave at 6:30pm sharp from the Multipurpose room to go Christmas caroling around town with stops at Northcrest, Windsor Oaks, Green Hills, and Northridge Village. Folders with many Christmas favorites will be provided.

**“NOEL! NOEL! LUNCHEONS”**  
**Celebrate the Sounds of the Season with us!**

Come! Enjoy some delicious food prepared by various individuals and groups within the church on Advent Wednesdays at Noon. Beautiful music “of the season” will be shared! Friends are welcomed! Serving begins at 11:45 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. Members of the Worship Committee are hostesses and hosts. We will be hosted by some of the men from our UMM on December 13. Then, on December 20 “Chefs” Nicole and Fred and others from the staff will provide our luncheon. Each week some soups will be made and served with “the trimmings”. We will conclude each program before 1 p.m. so those employed can return to work.

**December 13:** Music by the ISU’s “Jolly Old St. Saxophones”, directed by Dr. Mike Giles

**December 20:** Music by Mark Kretsinger-Harries.

**UMW...**We want to send out a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make Holiday Fair 2017 another huge success. Our profit from the Fair this year is about \$13,000! Once again, the congregation really stepped up to fill the Bake Shoppe with an abundance of baked goods. Thank you so much to those dedicated people who returned to make noodles, tea rings and pies. The Morning Coffee was so wonderful and enjoyed by many. Thank you so much to the dedicated quilters who worked all year long on sewing and quilting. We are also grateful for those who brought items for Made with Love, Grandma’s Attic and Kitchen Corner. Our new Seasonal Décor Room was also a great success. We want to recognize everyone who worked so hard setting up the rooms in the days prior to the Fair and those who worked Saturday. We also want to thank all the people in the congregation who came to support the Fair by purchasing many items for sale. We so appreciate all the work Joyce Schafbuch and her daughter Kristen put into making our meal so wonderful and delicious!

A special salute goes out to Steve Pelz and Tony for all the extra work involved in getting ready for the Fair. As always, we want to thank Deb Benefield for making copies, help with supplies, keys and weeks of delivering donations to the storage room. The cleanup crew is also such a vital part of the day so a big thank you to Frederick Killian and family, Don Wall, Roy Cakerice and Pete Peterson for helping us put things back in order for Sunday morning.

Proceeds from the Fair enable United Methodist Women to support our church in many different ways including ASP, camp scholarships, children’s education, the Puppet Ministry, church supplies as well as a number of local, state and global missions. We look forward to Holiday Fair 2018 and hope we can count on your support again next year!

Carolyn Yorgensen, Donna Banker, Margaret Torrie, Joan Peterson, Joyce Schafbuch

## **PAJAMA PARTY!!!**

That's right! It's time for FUMC's annual PJ Party on Wednesday, December 20 beginning at 6:00p.m. A "Sign-Up Genius" will be sent out soon to families to let us know what food they will be bringing to share. If you don't get the link, please let Nicole know or go ahead and bring a dessert or finger food to share. Don't forget the most important part... wear your cozy PJs and slippers too!! We will meet in the Multipurpose room at 6:00 and eat. Shortly after we will move to the Sanctuary where there will be a special reading of the Christmas story. We will then move back into the Multipurpose room for the crafts and games.

## **TWO SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER WILL HAVE WORSHIP AT 9:30 A.M.**

There will be only 1 Sunday worship service on December 24 and 1 December 31 due to the way the Christmas and New Year's holiday happen this year. On Sunday morning the 24<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and then later that day we will also be having our Christmas Eve services. December 31<sup>st</sup> will find us in worship marking the arrival of a brand new year. We will continue to have our regular Saturday at First worship services on December 23 and December 30 at 5:30 p.m.

**No Coffee Hour Refreshments on December 24 or December 31 due to the holidays!**

## **Confirmation**

I and our Lay Leader, Carol Miller, continue to work with our confirmands in their walk with Christ and teaching them basic doctrine of the Christ Faith and how they live out their faith as United Methodist Christians. There are 15 in our confirmation class of 2017/2018. A unique process that I introduced to our confirmation program is to visit every family before and during confirmation. This helps in the discipleship process as youth grow in their faith, knowing that the journey they are about to embark on matters to me as their pastor. During confirmation we will visit the following religious assemblies (with exception of Burns UMC) that are not part of the Christian faith. Places of Faith we will be visiting:

- Burns United Methodist Church, Ames, IA (December 2017)
- Hindu Temple Culture Center, Madrid, IA (January 2018)
- Darul Arqum Islamic Center, Ames, IA (March 2018)
- Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, Des Moines, IA (April 2018)

## **Liberia Mission Trip**

By God's Grace, every year I visit my Native country to see families and attend my Liberia Annual Conference sessions. This year my travel will be centered on missions; especially an annual young minister empowerment forum for Liberian pastors under 40 years. From February 8-10, 2018, the Liberia Young Ministers Conference will be held in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, targeting 125 young pastors who do not have the opportunity to attend formal theological school; yet they have demonstrated extreme passion to their callings. Refuge United Methodist Church was founded by myself and my best friend when we were serving as missionaries of the General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church. One Mission focus during my trip will be to revitalize the "**Children's Hope Village program**" by starting to offer after school programs for the less fortunate. It is my prayer and determination to have this event yearly. It will be an ecumenical event. If you want to know more about this mission trip and how to support the people of Liberia, contact me or invite me for coffee. My travel dates are January 29 and return February 14. Kindly, keep me in your prayers.

In Mission with vision  
Rev. Joseph Cephas Z. K. Davis

### **IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION**

**In order to claim a charitable deduction for 2017, our donors to FUMC must deliver contributions to the church office by noon on Sunday, December 31.**

### **COFFEE HOUR HOST ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2018**

It is our pleasure to serve Fellowship Coffee between Sunday services each week. A freewill offering helps to defray the costs. Thank you for your financial support of the coffee hour! In 2018 we plan to once again assign the various groups and committees within our church the responsibility to prepare and host our fellowship time

January - Welcome & Marketing and Member Care Committees

February - Finance and Stewardship Committees

March - United Methodist Women

April - Staff Parish Relations Committee and Missions Committee

May - Board of Trustees and Foundation Board

June - Chancel and Bell Choirs

July - CEMT Committee and Worship Committee

August - Gifts and Memorials and History Committees

September - Welcome and Marketing and Member Care Committees

October - Finance and Stewardship Committee

November - United Methodist Men

December - Staff Parish Relations Committee and Worship Committee

## Happy Birthday, Jesus!!

Children and their families are invited to celebrate at a Birthday Party for Jesus during the Sunday School Hour on December 17. The party will take place in the multipurpose room from 9:45-10:45. There will be music, crafts, and of course BIRTHDAY CAKE! During this time, the children, youth, and families will also be making goodies to place in goody bags to be distributed on Christmas Eve to local fire stations, hospitals, hotels, and anywhere else where people have to work to care for others instead of being able to be with family on the holiest of nights.



## Wonderful Wednesday Women

Wonderful Wednesday Women will meet on December 13 and 20 at 10:30a.m.

There won't be meetings on December 27 or January 3.



*Wonderful Wednesday Women*

## Blue Christmas

As Christmas approaches, the hustle and bustle can be overwhelming, leaving us feeling empty and emotionally drained, especially if we are grieving a significant loss or under stress. On Thursday, December 21, at 6:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church is offering a supportive service of worship in the chapel to all persons for whom the holidays are difficult due to a death, loss, tragedy, stress or depression. Our **Blue Christmas Service** allows participants to name personal losses and loved ones as we light candles in a time of sharing personal stories, if so moved.

## A BUILDER'S CALL ANNOUNCED

Bishop Haller has issued a "Builder's Call" for First UMC in Clarinda. The funds raised will assist that congregation in construction of a new handicapped accessible church that includes a welcome center, 200 seat sanctuary, several classrooms, and a large ministry center/multi-purpose room. You may send your donation to our church office but be sure to clearly mark it on the memo line for the Clarinda UMC Builder's Call.





## **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

**4:30 p.m.**

### **A Family-friendly service of Carols and Candlelight**

Featuring a time with our children with each child in attendance receiving a small memento gift;

A time of Blessing for All the Newborn Infants during the past year of 2017 --

families with young babies are encouraged to be here;

Candle-lighting with "Silent Night";

Music by Myrna Cakerice

Guest soloists: Anson Woodin and Roy Cakerice with Pastor Fred Lewis preaching.

**7:30 p.m.**

### **A Family Service of Traditional Carols and Candlelight**

Featuring music by Myrna Cakerice, our Chancel Choir, and special guest soloists including:

Megan Kroeger, Anson Woodin, and Dr. Michael Golemo; a time with our children with each child in attendance

receiving a small memento gift;

"Up With Puppets" Special presentation

Candle-lighting with "Silent Night";

with Pastor Fred Lewis preaching.

**10:30 p.m.**

### **A Quiet, Late-Night Service of Carols, Communion, and Candlelight**

Featuring the music of Myrna Cakerice on the organ/piano a guest soloist: Megan Kroger

The Sacrament of Holy Communion celebrated;

Candle-lighting with "Silent Night"

with Pastor Cephas Davis preaching.

## **STILL SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE**

The Nominations Committee for our congregation still has the following position open and waiting for good volunteers to "step up" to serve:

Board of Trustees – 1 more male is needed

Committee on Memorials and Gifts – 1 person is needed

Committee on Finance and Administration –2 more people are needed

Committee on Nominations – 3 people needed

Committee on History - 1 more person is needed

CEMT - 3 or 4 people are needed

Member Care - 2 more persons are needed

Welcome & Marketing - 1 person is needed

Contact Pastor Fred or Deb in the church office if you are interested. We would like to have these roles filled by December 31.



**To the wonderful people of FUMC**

Words cannot express how much Ben and I have appreciated the prayers, concerns, kindness and generosity that you have shown to us throughout "our" daughter, Julie's illness and since her passing. I feel blessed to be working in a place filled with such caring people. We will be going back to Oregon at the end of December for a celebration of Julie's life.

Sincerely,  
Deb and Ben Benefield

**Chancel bells: 6:30 p.m.**

December 6  
December 13

No Chancel Bells Dec. 20  
December 27

**Chancel Choir: 7:30 p.m.**

December 6  
December 13

No Chancel Choir Dec. 20  
December 21  
December 27

**Chancel Choir Party:**

6:00 p.m. MPR  
December 15



Chancel Choir will present Pepper Choplin's cantata  
"Night of the Father's Love" (the Awe and Mystery of God with Us)  
for the 8:30 a.m. worship service December 17,  
with Barb Mittman as accompanist and Neil Van Slyke as narrator.

**Your search for FAITH has arrived!**

Why does my smartphone act so dumb?  
Why does my learning remote need a tutor?  
Why is my computer possessed by the devil?

When you have these kind of questions, you need FAITH:

*Friendly*

*Accessible*

*Informed*

*Technology*

*Helpers*

Whether it's troubleshooting or some basic instruction, we'll do our best to resolve your technology irritations. (And while we can't perform repairs, we can offer advice on whether a more serious procedure might be necessary.)

You can find (this kind of) FAITH via email or phone. (Text messages work too!)

[amesfirstumcfaith@gmail.com](mailto:amesfirstumcfaith@gmail.com) or (515) 446-8637

**The Week at a Glance  
December 10 – December 16**

**Sunday, December 10**

**8:30 & 11:00 Services**

10:00 Kids Christmas Program

6:30 Up With Puppets program

**Monday, December 11**

Piano Recital/Sanc

Scouts

**Tuesday, December 12**

Quilters

2-7 Farm to Folk

5:30 SPRC/MPR

7:00 DMOGG

**Wednesday, December 13**

11:45 Advent Lunch followed by

Jolly Old St Saxophones

4:00 AIRA/MPR

Confirmation

6:00 Wed Meal

6:30 Christmas Caroling

**Thursday, December 14**

8:00 Golden K small group mtg/CR

9:00 Ruth Cir/MPR

1:00 Sarah Cir/MPR

Silver Anniv. Cir/Northcrest

**Friday, December 15**

5-9 Choir Party/MPR

**Saturday December 16**

5:30 SAF

**CR-Conference Room**

**FH-Fellowship Hall**

**LIB - Library**

**MPR-Multipurpose Room**

**EYR-East Youth Room**

**WYR-West Youth Room**

**SCR-Staff Conference Room**

**Par - Parlor**

**ACOLYTES**

**8:30**

Paige Wiertzema

**11:00**

Jenna Johnson & Miranda Ross

**Audio/Video/Streaming**

Doug Hill

Pete Peterson

Dean Swyter

Fredrick Killian

Mike Evans

Calvin Evans

Marty Sankey

Larry Vallery

Zachary Smith

Bobby Gens

**GREETERS**

**8:30**

Nancy Eischen

Carolyn Yorgensen

**11:00**

Glendora Clark

**USHERS**

**8:30 & 11:00**

Youth

**UTILITIES**

Dean Sampson

**NURSERY**

Meredith

Clove

**WELCOME VISITORS**

The Welcoming and Marketing Committee at First United Methodist Church would like to thank you for visiting our church. We take pride in our beautiful church and hope you had a pleasant and welcoming experience. Please stop by the Welcome Center located behind the sanctuary and to the left of the open stairway before or after service on Sunday morning. We hope you will join us again! If you are interested in more information about the church or are interested in joining, please leave your information at the Welcome Center, contact one of the pastors or call the church office at 515-232-2750.

## **WE WELCOME YOU!**

Our Welcome Center is located in the gathering space near the elevator. Please stop by if you have questions or would like to get more information about the church. Be sure to mention if you are a first time visitor.

Nursery care is available in Room E203, in the Christian Education Unit, on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings for children under the age of 5. All of our workers are trained and screened. Items for children's worship bags are available in the gathering area.

Restrooms are located in the east hallways and by the elevator. Ushers are available at the entrances of the sanctuary to assist you with hearing devices, large print bulletins or any questions you may have. An emergency phone and defibrillator are located on the wall near the west entry.

### **First United Methodist Church Affirmation of Welcome**

As a community of the people of God, we are called to minister to all people of the world, knowing that the world is often an unloving place of alienation and brokenness. Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, as we are challenged by the Gospel to be agents of healing within our society.

We stand in affirmation with the apostle Paul that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." Christ has made us one. We acknowledge that this reconciliation encompasses all within the community of faith who exhibit any and all differences in the human condition including, but not limited to: race, gender, ethnicity, age, culture, physical and mental ability, educational level, economic status, personality, marital status, sexual orientation and gender identity in response to the often hostile social climate with respect to diversity within our society and the resulting feelings of alienation from the Church, we wish to make known our caring and concern. It is for this purpose that we affirm the following:

- all persons share the sacred worth that comes from being unique individuals created by God;
- all persons are welcome within the membership of this congregation upon making affirmation of faith; and that as members of this congregation, all persons are invited and encouraged to share in the sacramental and general life of this congregation.

### **CHURCH STAFF**

**Rev. Fred Lewis**, Senior Minister/Lead Pastor

**Rev. Cephias Davis**, Associate Pastor

**Nicole Smith**, Director of Christian Education

**Brooke Kruger**, Youth Director

**Deb Benefield**, Director of Office & Communications

**Reid Cummer**, Business Manager

**Myrna Cakerice**, Organist/Director of Choirs

**Steve Pelz**, Facility Director

**Matt Woodworth**, Part-time/Sunday Custodian

Go to our website: [www.fumcames.org](http://www.fumcames.org) for the latest church information. Follow us on facebook.

Church office hours:  
Mon-Thurs: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.  
Friday 8:30 to 4:30

To view go to <http://bit.ly/amesfirstumcyoutube> or go to youtube.com and search for Ames First United Methodist Church channel. You can also find archived services at the church's channel.