



THIRD 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  
December 17, 2017

## THE GATHERING:

Centering Words:

*What are your dreams for Christmas? What are your hopes for this world?*

*To be filled with laughter, to cry with joy, not with sorrow?*

*To be free of the chains that bind us;*

*to shout with thanksgiving, not with anguish? Then, rejoice and give thanks,  
for Christ is coming and is already here, working with us to make our hopes and  
dreams come true.*

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

*This week in our prayers for the world let us remember especially the people of  
Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, and Togo*

## OPENING VOLUNTARIES

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

arr: Beverly E. Blessing

"An Advent Prelude"

Charles Callahan

"O Christ-Child Sweet"

J. S. Bach

*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

The spirit of God is on me because God anointed me;

**Sent me to bring good news to the poor,**

Heal the brokenhearted, and

**Announce freedom to all captives.**

I will sing for joy in God,

**And explode in praise from deep in my soul.**

Come, let us worship!

**Praise the Lord!**

Come, let us worship God!

HYMN

No. 224

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

## **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 candles of hope and peace and this third candle, the candle of joy.

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 all three candles (two blue and one pink) ---

As we light the candle of joy, we remember the stories of God's loyalty to all creation. We give thanks for the messengers---the apostles, prophets, artists, sages, faithful ones---present in every age, who bring us the good news of God's restoring love; and we shout with joy, trusting that God is with us and before us, and that joy will be born anew in us.

**Amen.**

## **SONG**

No. 2090 "Light the Advent Candle" verses 1, 2, and 3

## **A TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN**

## **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Isaiah 61:1-4

## **HYMN**

No. 210

"All Earth Is Waiting"

## **THE GOSPEL**

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

## **CALL FOR THE OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS**

The prayers we offer, the gifts we give, are like seeds sown in trust that God's love will water these seeds and bring new life, hope, and joy to those who weep.

Receive our offering and gifts, O God, in grateful thanksgiving.

**Amen.**

## **OFFERTORY**

"A Virgin Most Pure, the Prophets Foretold"

arr: Alice Jordan

## **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

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

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to Christ the Son,  
glory to the Holy Spirit, glory 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.

**WITNESS TO THE WORD (8:30 a.m.)**

**CANTATA**

Chancel Choir Acc: Barb Mittman

Narration: Neil Van Slyke

Night of the Father's Love Pepper Choplin

The Coming of the Lord

Waiting

Angels Are Making Their Rounds

Night of the Father's Love

The Shepherds' Song

Fall on Your Knees

Christ Is Born, Nowell!

**DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

**HYMN** No. 240 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY** "An Advent Postlude" Charles Callahan

*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 today, Dec. 17. With over twenty local, national, and international options, you're sure to find a project for anyone's interests.

**"NOEL! NOEL! LUNCHEONS"**

**Celebrate the Sounds of the Season with us!**

December 20, "Chefs" Nicole and Fred and others from the staff will provide our luncheon. Serving begins at 11:45 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. We will conclude each program before 1 p.m. so those employed can return to work.

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

## **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.

## 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.

Come, share and celebrate the rich memories of loved ones shining through and warming hearts no matter the weather. Come, experience a quiet time of peace and hope with others seeking to know deeper joy, made available to us in Christ Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem. Come, share silence, gentle Christmas carols and seasonal readings...and maybe a tear mixed with compassionate smiles of understanding.

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

There will be only one Sunday worship service on December 24<sup>th</sup> and one on December 31<sup>st</sup> due to the way the Christmas and New Year's holidays 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<sup>rd</sup> and December 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

**No Coffee Hour Refreshments on December 24<sup>th</sup> or December 31<sup>st</sup> due to the holidays!**

## 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

### Wonderful Wednesday Women

Wonderful Wednesday Women will meet on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30a.m.

There won't be meetings on December 27<sup>th</sup> or January 3<sup>rd</sup>.



*Wonderful Wednesday Women*

### STILL SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE

The Nominations Committee for our congregation still has the following positions 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<sup>st</sup>.

### 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.



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

No Chancel Bells Dec. 20  
December 27

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

No Chancel Choir Dec. 20  
December 21  
December 27

### A TIME TO REMEMBER and RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS

The Advent/Christmas/Epiphany seasons are a wonderful time for everyone to take the time to remember their baptism, their place in God's holy church with all who have faithfully lived and died, and to give God thanks for the ways God is at work in this world. Take time to rejoice that a Savior has come for you! Come and worship!

### 2018 APPLACHIA SERVICE PROJECT

Yes! The time has arrived to really gear up for our 2018 trip to the mountains of Appalachia as we work with A.S.P. (a mission and ministry of the UMC). The dates are July 21-July 29. Contact Ken Van Pelt who is once again serving as our team coordinator! Each participant is asked to pay \$100. There is a registration form available in the church. Each person registering is to pay \$50 now with a second payment due by February 1. For more information please contact Ken at [kkvanpelt@q.com](mailto:kkvanpelt@q.com) or 232-4018.



### WINTER WEATHER REMINDER

Remember to listen to the news or call the church if severe winter weather strikes. We will try our best to make decisions and get word out through the news media. If at all possible, we will try to have worship. Stay home if the conditions are dangerous for you. If schools are dismissed early or canceled then the activities at the church will also be canceled. Call if in doubt. **We want everyone to remain safe.**

**The Week at a Glance  
December 17 – December 23**

**Sunday, December 17**

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

8:30 Christmas Cantata

9:45 Jesus' Birthday Party/MPR

11:00 Service - puppets perform

**Monday, December 18**

Boy Scouts Court of Honor

**Tuesday, December 19**

Quilters

Staff Lunch

2-7 Farm to Folk

3:30 Aktion Club/MPR

**Wednesday, December 20**

11:45 Advent Lunch followed by

Mark Kretsinger-Harries

6:00 Wed Meal - PJ Party

**Thursday, December 21**

4:00 Aktion Club Board Meeting/CR

6:30 Blue Christmas/chapel

**Friday, December 22**

**Saturday December 23**

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**

**NURSERY**

Meredith  
Clove

**ACOLYTES**

**8:30**

**11:00**

Greyson & Camille Rehbein

**Audio/Video/Streaming**

Doug Hill

Pete Peterson

Dean Swyter

Fredrick Killian

Mike Evans

Calvin Evans

Marty Sankey

Larry Vallery

Zachery Smith

Bobby Gens

**GREETERS**

**8:30**

Becky Jordan

**11:00**

**USHERS**

**8:30**

Gayle & Lee Huey

Rhonda & Jerry Giebelstein

Carolyn Yorgensen & Donna

Banker

**11:00**

Glendora Clark

Karen Kerper

Steve Hanlin

William & Jane Edwards

**UTILITIES**

**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 church services live, go to <http://bit.ly/amesfirstumclivestream>.  
To view past services and other church events, go to Ames First United Methodist Church's YouTube page at <http://bit.ly/amesfirstumcyoutube>.