

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 27th, 2016~9:30 A.M.

*Welcome to Faith United Methodist Church. It is our heart and desire to **engage** the community of Waseca with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, **equip** those who respond to be the next generation of disciples of Jesus Christ and **empower** them to go into the world as partners with God for the healing of the world.*

NEWS OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY/ WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP....."Lord, I Lift Your Name on High " ...TFWS No. 2088

PASSING OF THE PEACE



Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24).

The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ, whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. Scripture reading for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.



The Advent wreath is an increasingly popular symbol of the beginning of the Church year in many churches as well as homes. It is a circular evergreen wreath (real or artificial) with five candles, four around the wreath and one in the center. Since the wreath is symbolic and a vehicle to tell the Christmas story, there are various ways to understand the symbolism. The exact meaning given to the various aspects of the wreath is not as important as the story to which it invites us to listen, and participate.

The circle of the wreath reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. Candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

First Sunday of Advent

L: The first candle is traditionally the candle of **Expectation or Hope**. This draws attention to the anticipation of the coming of an Anointed One, a Messiah, that weaves its way like a golden thread through Old Testament history. As God's people were abused by power hungry kings, led astray by self-centered prophets, and lulled into apathy by half-hearted religious leaders, there arose a longing among some for God to raise up a new king who could show them how to be God's people. They yearned for a return of God's dynamic presence in their midst.

We light a purple candle to remind us that Messiah is coming and with Him comes justice for the oppressed.

ALL: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

SONG OF CELEBRATION....."Light the Advent Candle" ...Vs.1 TFWS No. 2090

RESPONSIVE READINGMatthew 24:36-44

L: "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. "

All: For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,

L: and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

All: Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.

L: Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

All: But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

L: Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

ANTHEM....."O Come to Set Us Free" ...Faith Choir

KIDS TIME....."Waiting and Watching"



SUNDAY SCHOOL All children are invited to attend Sunday School at this time. Please go to the back of the sanctuary to meet your teacher.

SCRIPTURE READINGS.....**Colossians 1:15-23**

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, He has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

L: THIS IS THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD

MESSAGE.....“Jesus Christ: Son of God”...Pastor Victor

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

*SONG OF THANKSGIVING....."Doxology"...UMH No. 95

*THANKSGIVING FOR GOD’S GIFTS

* CLOSING HYMN....."O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"...vs. 1-4 UMH No. 211

*SENDING FORTH.....John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

EXIT MUSIC

REMEMBER OUR CHURCH & MILITARY FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Remember our church members & friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:

Colony Court Memory & Care Suites: Ann Swenson, Dick Westrum

Colony Court: Ardella Draheim, Nina Youngberg,
Leona Quast, Muriel Jenkins

Lakeshore Inn: Florence Gutknecht, Hazel Henkensiefken,

Latham Place: Liz Corchran

Oaklawn Health Care Center: Jim Keller

Tower Light, St. Louis Park: Darlene Lynch

Those who also need our prayers: Willie Mahler[Home Hospice]

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Bruce and Deb Hering,
Peter and Verna Fog, Marilyn and Dan Possin, Millie White, Chuck Youngberg,
Lucille and George Kubista.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hanging of the Greens: It's time to decorate for Christmas. Please join us on **Monday, December 5th** starting at **9:00 a.m.** in decorating various areas of our church to help spread the joy and the colors of the advent season throughout. Many hands make light work, so please come and lend YOUR HANDS! There will be coffee and treats provided. All are welcome and can come for a short time or a long time!



**Relay
For
Life**

We know that it's early, but we wanted to remind everyone that the Relay for Life Garage sale will be next spring. If you have anything to donate please contact Dave Baldini 835-3697 at or Vada Dahnert at 833-5477.

You may send cards to **Bob Hunter** during his recovery at the following address: Bob Hunter
2704 Prairie Ct.
East Troy, WI 53120

Bruce and Mary Jane Stauffer's address from December 4, 2016 to April 15th, 2017 is:
Bruce Stauffer
7940 E Lindner Circle
Mesa, AZ 85209

Kim Maas has been our Administrative Assistant for the last four years and has done a great job. However, she will be taking a full-time position starting January 1st. We now have an opening for the position of Administrative Assistant. This is a 20 hour per week part-time position with flexible hours. Any qualified person in our congregation is welcome to apply. In order to be considered for the position, please have your resume in my box by **December 9th.** Pastor Victor Waters

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE...

11/27/2016 (Sun.) Pancake Mix Sunday
9:30-10:30 a.m.-Worship Service
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School
10:30 a.m.-Fellowship

11/28/2016 (Mon.) Faith Messenger mailed this week
6:00-7:30 p.m.-Winter Survival, Essential Oils, Lamont (**FH)

11/29/2016 (Tues.) 3:00-4:30 p.m.-Conversation, Bible & Friends (*LV Room)

11/30/2016 (Wed.) 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.-Some Time Away (**FH)
7:00 p.m.-Choir Practice

12/4/2016 (Sun.) Birthday Sunday
9:15 a.m.-Hymn Sing
9:30-10:30 a.m.-Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:00 a.m.-Sunday School
10:30 a.m.-Fellowship

*Lakeview Room **Fellowship Hall