

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12th, 2021~9:30 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.*

PRELUDE

GREETING/WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let all who love God rejoice.

Let all who thirst for justice draw water from the well of God's salvation.

Let all who long for Christ sing for joy.

Let all who hunger for righteousness return home to the living God.

Let all who seek the Spirit shout aloud.

Let all who yearn for mercy fall on their knees before the throne of grace.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Today we relight the first two candles of the Advent wreath. The candles of peace and hope. Now we light the third candle of Advent. This is the candle of LOVE. Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also. In the book of Deuteronomy, we find these words:

“For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

From the Gospel of John, we hear:

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another’

Let us Pray:

Teach us to love, O Lord, may we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ’s footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus’ birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your Son our Savior. Amen

HYMN....."Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"UMH #240

TIME FOR YOUNG METHODISTS AND FRIENDS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER.....Unison

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Let us pray:

Generous God, the bounty of your love overflows into every aspect of our lives. May the gifts we bring before you this day be a sign of our commitment to share our love with those in need. May the offerings we place upon your table Lord, symbolize our trust in your power to heal the world through the works of our hands and the ministries of your church. In Christ’s name, we pray.
Amen

DOXOLOGY.....UMH #95

SPECIAL MUSIC.....Andrea Johnson

SCRIPTURE READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20.....Les Wells

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

Isaiah 12:2-6.....Les Wells

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the Lord,
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**THIS IS THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD
THANKS BE TO GOD**

Luke 3:7-18.....Pastor Carolyn

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

MESSAGE.....Pastor Carolyn

HYMN....."The First Noel".....UMH #245

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

REMEMBER OUR CHURCH 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: Joe Tollefson, Janice Kaupa

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Foxdale Memory Care: Elaine Westrum

Lakeshore Inn: Leona Quast

Latham Place: Lucille Kubista

Koda Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Prayer Requests for Sunday: John Slattery, government officials, health care workers, first responders, and those who are at risk and most vulnerable to Covid-19, those who battle chronic illness and pain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement or prayer request you would like to have shared at Sunday service, please email the church office at faithwaseca@gmail.com by Thursday. If you would like your announcement printed in the bulletin, please e-mail the announcement by Wednesday. If you do not have access to email, you may call the church office at 835-3167. **We also want to hear any joys you have so please email or call the church with any that you would like to share!**

**** Please stay home if you are sick. God will forgive you!**

Also, please stay home if you do not have symptoms but have tested positive for Covid in the last 14 days or are waiting for test results or someone in your household has tested positive.

When you do come to church or visit the church building, please remember to wear a mask at all times.

If you are unable to attend worship, you may view the service online via a link on our Facebook page, Faith United Methodist Church, or our website, wasecafaithumc.com. The service is also aired on the local PEG television channel at the following times:

Sunday 12:30 PM

Thursday 4:30 PM

Tuesday 8:30 AM

Saturday 6:00 PM

Please note that Stacy True, Administrative Assistant, will be out of the office December 13 through 17, December 20 and December 29.

Birthday Party!!

Margaret Hasslen will be 100 years old on her birthday which is December 19th. There will be a party for Margaret that will be held on Sunday, December 19th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Grand Stay Motel in Waseca. Please come and wish her a happy birthday.

They are also having a card shower for her so please send her a birthday card at 1212 3rd St. NE Waseca, MN 56093.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE...

12/12/2021 (Sun.) Third Sunday of Advent
9:30 am - Worship Service

12/13/2021 (Mon.) 3:00-4:30 pm - Conversation, Bible & Friends (*LV Room)

12/14/2021 (Tues.) 10:30 am - Ruth Circle (Tasty House)

12/15/2021 (Wed.) 2:30 pm - Elizabeth Circle (*LV Room)

12/16/2021 (Thur.) 10:30 am - Bible Study

12/19/2021 (Sun.) Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:30 am - Worship Service

*Lakeview Room **Fellowship Hall

Administrative Assistant Hours this Week:

**** Out of Office this week**

Pastor Carolyn's Contact Info.:

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