

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY
December 31, 2023~9:30 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/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us dance with delight in the Lord and let our hearts be filled with rejoicing,

For eternal salvation has appeared on the earth. Alleluia!

HYMN....."All Creatures of Our God and King"UMH #62, vs. 1, 5, 7

UNISON PRAYER

Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

PASS THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM....."The Glory of Christmas"Faith Choir

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

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.

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY.....UMH #95

OFFERTORY PRAYER.....Unison

God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING.....Les Wells

Luke 2:22-40

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

"Lord, now you are letting your servant^[a] depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

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

HYMN....."Away in a Manger"UMH #217

SCRIPTURE READING.....Pastor Jon Schultz

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

MESSAGE....."A Child"Pastor Jon Schultz

A PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

**Come Holy Spirit, fill our voices with praise, so that all we speak will glorify you.
Come Holy Spirit, give us such faith that we will go wherever you ask us to go.
Come Holy Spirit, help us to be a friend like Jesus.
Come Holy Spirit, warm our hearts, so that as we love our community, they see you.
In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.**

HYMN....."There's a Song in the Air".....UMH #249

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

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: Shirley Burdick, Gloria Rollag

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Lakeshore Inn: Margaret Hasslen

Latham Place: Joe Tollefson

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Prayer Requests for Sunday: Sue Baldini, Tim Dahnert, Ron Dahnert, Gail Sauer, Beverly Pippenger, Deene Pippenger, Bob Stephan, Gloria Rollag, Margaret Hasslen, the Middle East, government officials, health care workers, first responders, those who battle cancer, chronic illness and pain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up. If you do not have offering envelopes and would like some, please let Stacy know. We do have extra boxes available.

Session three of the “Conversation at the Crossroads” process is scheduled for Thursday, January 11 at 6:30 pm. At this session our consultant will present a written report and recommendations for our church. Our District Superintendent, Woojae Im, will also be in attendance.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE...

12/31/2023 (Sun.)	9:30 am - Worship Service 10:30 am - Fellowship
1/01/2024 (Mon.)	<i>Happy New Year!</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i>
1/03/2024 (Wed.)	7:00 pm - Choir Practice (*LV Room)
1/04/2024 (Thurs.)	1:00 pm - Newsletter Folding (Church Office)
1/07/2024 (Sun.)	Birthday Sunday 9:30 am - Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:30 am - Fellowship

*Lakeview Room **Fellowship Hall

Administrative Assistant Hours this Week:

Wednesday & Thursday: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Pastor's Office Hours this Week:

Thursday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Rev. Jon Schultz Contact Info.:

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