

DECEMBER 17, 2023

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 AM: WORSHIP SERVICE & GOD'S BIG HOUSE (PRE-K - 5TH GRADE)

11:10 AM: ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL (CONFERENCE ROOM)

To parents of young children: Relax! God put the wiggles in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house. Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage. Explain parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders. Sing the songs, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you. If you have to leave the Sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. You and your child are a blessing to the church and this congregation. After the Children's Moments, children are welcomed and encouraged to stay and be part of the service or if you choose they can attend God's Big House (Ages: K-5th Grade upstairs with Mr. Andrew and our volunteers) or the Nursery (Ages: New-born to Pre-K on the main level with Ms. Sarah and our volunteers). As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

*Congregation is invited to stand, if able.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SONG OF PRAISE:** JOY TO THE WORLD (UNSEAKABLE JOY)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: OUR SOULS PROCLAIM YOUR GREATNESS, O GOD. AND OUR SPIRITS REJOICE IN YOU.

P: WE WILL PRAISE YOU AS LONG AS WE LIVE. WE WILL SING PRAISES TO YOU OUR WHOLE LIVES LONG.

L: WE WILL NOT TRUST IN THE POWERFUL OF THIS WORLD, BUT WILL TRUST IN YOU—CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE ONE WHO GIVES FOOD TO THE HUNGRY, THE ONE WHO ENACTS JUSTICE FOR THE OPPRESSED.

P: OUR SOULS PROCLAIM YOUR GREATNESS, O GOD AS WE WORSHIP YOU IN THIS PLACE.

OPENING PRAYER (IN UNISON)

*Holy God of Joy,
We rejoice in the reality of who you are. We live within the
joy of your love for us.
Our contentment comes and goes.
Our happiness ebbs and flows.
Our feelings depend upon our circumstances,
our physical health, our brain chemistry.
But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children.
And we give you thanks. Amen.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH BY OUR CHILDREN
WITH O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL UMH 211 VERSE 1

CHORAL ANTHEM

CROSSROADS UMC CHOIR

A TIME FOR CHILDREN WITH MARTHA GILL

This, this is where children belong.
Welcomed as part of our worship and song.
Hearing God's Word, sharing love all along.
This is where children belong.

A TIME OF PRAYER

A TIME OF GIVING

*DOXOLOGY

(to the tune of 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,

CHRISTMAS PLAY: FOLLOW THE STAR

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH UMH 238 VS 1,2
O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL UMH 234 VS 1,3,4
WE THREE KINGS UMH 254 VS 1,3,4

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTIONAL SONG: THE BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn His face toward you
and give you peace. Amen.

*BENEDICTIONAL PRAYER

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to our hosts/hostesses for Coffee in the Conference Room.

December 24 Sue Dostal, Josh Taylor, Sandy Blank

If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact the church office.

Sunday School: immediately after the 10:00 service in the conference room. Join Debbie Wallin as she leads a new video series on 1 Thessalonians by Ben Stuart.

Christmas Caroling: December 20: The congregation is invited to join WNK in Christmas Caroling at Brereton Court.

Common Grounds: December 21

Food Pantry: Through the month of December we will be collecting cereal, ramen noodles, boxes of chips, oats, spaghetti, rice, and puddings/jello for the food pantry.

Our Blue Christmas Service will take place on Thursday, December 21 at 11am.

Christmas Services will be held on Christmas Eve, December 24 at 10am and 4pm.

Bible Study/Dinner is cancelled on December 27.

Wednesday Dinner Main Dish:

December 20 : Pizza and chips by everyone

27: No Bible Study/Dinner

January 3: No Bible Study/Dinner

10: BBQ compliments of Pastor Dustin and Carrie

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Cross Roads United Methodist Church

"Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."



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