

Prelude Pam Campbell

Welcome & Announcements Worship Leader: Jason Johnson

Christ's Light Enters

Introit "I Wish I'd Been in Bethlehem" Choir

Lighting Advent Candles

The Gospel of Luke speaks about God's messenger:

"In the fifteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Tiberius,... the word of God came to John son of Zechariah...

He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

God comes to us through particular people, in particular places and times in the past, and here and now.

We light our first candle, the candle of Faith. *(The first candle is lit.)*

We light our second candle, the candle of Hope, as we are reminded to look for the light of God in God's messengers today.

(The second candle is lit.)

Living Christ, give us Faith to trust you and Hope to follow you.

We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.

***Opening Hymn** "All Earth is Waiting" #210

Opening Prayer

God of the prophets, into the world you sent your messenger to prepare for the coming of your son. In every age, your word has called your people from death to life, and from darkness into light. In our own day, you have raised up voices who call us to turn and mend our ways. Open our hearts to your good news, help us to repent and make us ready to welcome the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

Canticle of Zechariah Luke 1:68-79 #208
Liturgist: Joyce Swenson

Anthem "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" Choir

Old Testament Reading Malachi 3:1-4

Children's Moment: Mary Thoman

Gospel Reading Luke 3:1-6

Sermon "The Message is Still Needed" Pastor Melanie

Sharing of Prayers: Celebrations and Concerns

Silent Meditation & Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer #895

Offertory

Advent Doxology

*Offertory Prayer [Unison]

Loving God, with Faith and Hope we bring these offerings to you. Use us and these gifts to bring a renewed sense of faith and hope to our world. Amen.

***Closing Song** "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" #196

Our Purpose

What is our purpose? **To provide a place for all to BELONG to our community, BELIEVE in and experience the transforming love of Jesus Christ, and BECOME his disciples. BELONG! BELIEVE! BECOME!**

Benediction

Benediction Response "Pass It Along" Choir

Postlude

UPDATED 740 Prayer Initiative

(Thank you for stepping up your prayers for our congregation! Set your phones to remind yourself to stop at 7:40 am and/or 7:40 pm each day to pray for our church and the mission and ministry we are called to do. Where did we come up with the number 740? It is our street address number. If you can't pray at 7:40, choose another time. The important thing is that we are praying!)

Scriptures for prayer: "So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up" Galatians 6:9.

"Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us" Ephesians 3:20.

Please pray that God continues to work in our hearts and through the work of our hands so that others may also come to experience Christ's love. Pray that God would lead us and equip us for the living out of our purpose (what we repeat at the end of each service). And pray that God help each of us to be a follower of Christ committed to living a life of worship & hospitality, a life of opening our heart to the Holy Spirit, and a life of service & generosity. Pray for those who are seated around you in worship, whether you know them by name or not. Remember to lift up the need of our community and world. Pray the news: as you listen to the news of each day pray about each situation.

Give thanks to God! "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

PRAYERS

Please see the Prayer Board outside the office for ongoing prayer requests.

Pray for our congregation: For the ministry of making, nurturing, and sending out of disciples; because we believe that God's Love is the answer for the most difficult questions of our world today.

Jesus changes lives!

Lucille Blecha
Gerald Campbell
Emily Sporer
Bill Valcoure
Jean Wilcox



Meet in the upper parking lot at 3:00 pm on Sunday, December 9th, for Christmas Caroling around Concordia and the local care facilities. Caroling will be followed by a soup supper at the home of Monte & Nancy Wentz.

Events this week in church:

Sunday, December 9th

- 9:30 am Confirmation Class
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Worship Service
- 11:30 am Fellowship
- 3:00 pm Caroling

Monday, December 10th

- 7:00 pm Finance

Wednesday, December 12th

- 5:00 pm Sittin' With Jesus
- 5:45 pm Table Talk Meal
- 6:30 pm Table Talk Classes

Sunday, December 16th

- Christmas Program Sunday
- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Worship Service
- 11:30 am Fellowship

Bell Ringers Needed

Sunday, Dec. 16th

2-3 pm 1 slot open

3-4 pm 2 slots open



Noisy Offerings
December 9th go to
CCRC for Holiday
Baskets.



Thoughts to Ponder

Do you need a change of direction or a change of attitude? Do you need a fresh start, or a different way of seeing things? Whether it's a life change you are needing or a spiritual change, God can help.

The Apostle Paul tells us, *"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you"* (Philippians 4:8-9).



Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

First United Methodist Church

740 West 11th St, Concordia, KS 66901
Church (785) 243-4560

Office Hours:

MONDAY: 8:00 AM-3:30 PM

TUESDAY: 9:30 AM-3:30 PM

WEDNESDAY: 8:00 AM-3:30 PM

THURSDAY: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM

FRIDAY: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

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Rev. Melanie Adams, Pastor