

**FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**PHONE IN WORSHIP**

Sunday Worship occurs every Sunday  
from 10:15 to 11:45 AM

Join by phone: 1-408-418-9388

Access code: 132 203 0362

Password: 7777#

**FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**DECEMBER**

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear Friends,

Another Advent season is upon us! I know, once Thanksgiving happens, we call it the Holidays or Christmas... and it can be a blur thru New Year's Day. Advent is a church word. As out of use as it may be, it serves as an important reminder that there is more to the "Holidays" than the gifts, cards, and celebrations. "Advent" reminds us that there is even more to Christmas than lighting candles and singing hymns. Just as the world was unprepared for the birth of the Christ Child, Advent reminds us to be sure we are prepared in our heart and soul so that Jesus will have the proper place in our lives. Are you preparing room in your life for the Christ Child? Will it be a last-minute stable and manger? Or a space with more thoughtful preparation?

As usual, the church offers extra resources for those who find reading or devotional material to be helpful for this. We have a small devotional with daily readings, in addition to *The Upper Room* which we offer throughout the year. The Wednesday afternoon study group (1pm

at Faith) will be reading and discussing *Light from Afar*, “a daily Advent devotional that illuminates the season through the unforgettable stories and reflections of four writers from around the world. Authors Nadiyka Gerbish (Ukraine), Joel Bengbeng (Philippines), Cláudio Carvalhaes (Brazil), and Sidwell Mokgothu (South Africa) share cultural and religious traditions of the Advent season in their daily reflections. Each day's meditation includes a scripture reading, a prayer, an opportunity for reflection, and a link to a song from the author's home country.”

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year and so, Sunday morning will be a typical morning worship themed on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent. Sunday evening at 7pm will be a traditional Christmas Eve worship at Faith. Public and private worship are key elements to having a meaningful Advent. Sure, we can do the shopping and celebrating without any spiritual work – and it is work, requiring intentional effort, to have a healthy spiritual life. Remember that the gift giving and celebrating with friends and family have an added dimension when our Spiritual health and preparations are in order. If the Holiday rush is too much, I invite you to set your sights on Sunday morning, December 31<sup>st</sup>. What a great opportunity to reflect spiritually on the events of the last year and begin looking forward to where God is leading us in a new year! Even if the rest of the season has been a blur – or some type of unfortunate disaster – God gives us yet another opportunity to reset our souls and find a way forward.

Thankful and blessed,

Pastor Joy Wigal

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Adah Krokoko	JoAnne Peadon
Aggas Family	John Smith
Al Duncan	Johnson, Mohler & Covert Families
Andy Hartsock	Julie Glass
Baby Asher & Family	Kyle & Richard Felton
Baby Christian and Tanya	Lesha Alexander
Baby Griffin & Family	Lynn
Baby London	Marlene Farley
Bauer Family	Melinda Roberts
Bernice Osborne	Mike Camp Family
Betty Howard	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Sutton
Betty Miller	Nick Prindle
Bradley Adams	Pam & Michael
Brenda Miller	Pam Glass
Brenda Shepherd	Patty Pavlik
Brian Hina	Pearl Bradford
Chad Glass Family	Rita Spurrier
Charlie & Jean Bathrick Family	Ron Howard
Chase Bracken Family	Ron Pyle Sr. Family
Dave Smith Family	Saundra Boyd
Debbie Gifford	Sarah Chapman & Family
DeGarmo Family	Shana
Dennis Cebulsky	Steve Cahn
Dunn Family	Steve Inman
Erica Bishop	Suzanne Collins
Gloria Jean Campbell	Terry Pickens
Heather Bathrick	Tom Kelley Family
J.J. Jasper	Tonya Poli
Jacob Elson	Vickie Cordle
James Finlay Jr.	Vicky Butcher
Janet Hickman	Wanda Adams
Jasmine	Medical Faith Shut-in:
Jaydon Pletcher	Kathleen McCutcheon
Jim & Linda Dudley	
Jim & Patty Evans	

## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS



- December 7—Kris Crawmer
- December 9—Lily Howard
- December 21—Don Wolford
- December 22—Betty Miller
- December 23—Brian Wolfe
- December 23—Linda Hennessey
- December 25—Randy Schreiber
- December 26—Jordee Sue Harper
- December 28—Chris DeGarmo

## UPCOMING LITURGISTS & GREETERS

Date	Liturgist	Greeters
DECEMBER 3	Mark C.	Don, Roberta & Susie
DECEMBER 10	Roberta C.	Chris & Heather
DECEMBER 17	Nick H.	Mark, Thea & Vickie
DECEMBER 24 <sup>AM</sup>	Gail M.	Floyd & Pat
December 24 <sup>PM</sup>	Marsha K.	
December 31	Nick H.	Jim & Barb T.

*Titus 3:4-6: "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior."*

## PICTURE PERFECT CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



Everyone is invited to the annual United Women in Faith Christmas luncheon on Sunday, December 3, 2023, after the worship service down in the fellowship hall. We will enjoy a catered lunch from The Barn. On the menu will be Chicken breasts, Veggie Lasagna, Macaroni and cheese, Green beans Almandine, Fresh Salad, Pumpkin bars, iced tea and water. Enjoy this great meal, music, sharing memories and so much more!

\*\*If you have any old Christmas photos (family or individual) please bring them to church and give to Barb Wolfe or Vickie Finlay. We want to decorate our tables with smiles from opening gifts, sitting on Santa's lap, or just gathering for a family photo. Join the fun, bring in a picture! We will give them back after the luncheon.



*Isaiah 9:6: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

## EVENTIDE CIRCLE

Eventide Circle will meet 12:45 PM  
Thursday, December 7, 2023 at the Church.

Program: Roberta C.

Devotions: Vickie F.

Response Moment: Pat T.

Hostess: Roberta C.

## MONADO'S MARKET

Thank you, Faith UMC, for the on-going support of the Monado's Market at Zane State College. Your help is greatly appreciated! Some helpful items we are collecting include:

- ~Single Serving Snacks
- ~Microwavable Meals
- ~Bottled Water
- ~Trash Bags
- ~Paper Towels
- ~Toilet Paper
- ~Ibuprofen/Tylenol
- ~Dish Soap and Sponges
- ~Personal Hygiene Items
- ~Laundry Supplies
- ~Pet Supplies



*Luke 1:35: "And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."*

## NEW HOPE CIRCLE MEETING

Saturday, December 9 Progressive Meal

### BLANKETS NEEDED

Sending out prayers for blankets for the shelter in First Church.

We have 16 guests each night....some nights new ones come in and they need a new blanket.

Please share this need with others and say prayers for God to provide.

Phone at church office 740-452-7117. Please stay on the line even thru the message and I can pick up or call you back.

### HANGING OF THE GREENS



On Sunday, January 7, 2024, we will be taking down the Christmas decorations in the church. Please stay after the worship and lend a hand to help! It shouldn't take too long if enough people pitch in. Thanks in advance!

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH BOOK CLUB

On Monday, January 8, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., we will be meeting to choose our 2024 books for our UWF Reading

Program. You are welcome to join us if you would like to help select our books from the recommended list. We will meet in the church lounge. Please see Barb Wolfe if you have any questions.

