

## Ways to Participate in the Life of our Church:

**Sunday Bible Study:** Join us for Bible study Sundays at 9:00 AM in the Pastor's Study. The class is currently discussing Acts of the Apostles.

**Sunday Book Study Group:** Join us at 11:15 AM in the church office/library. For a discussion of "The Good Heart: A Buddhist Perspective on the Teachings of Jesus" by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

**Craft Evening:** Come to the church office/library on second Fridays at 6 PM, for fun, fellowship and crafts! Bring your own craft. We'll order in dinner, bring some food, or eat before you come. Let's make something great together! Join us January 9 for our next meet up.

**Men's Fellowship Breakfast:** Join other men from Fairview United Methodist Church every second Saturday at the West Broadway HyVee for community, conversation, and breakfast food! Order and find a table with other Fairview folks. Join us this Saturday, January 10 at 8:30 AM.

**Fairview Choir:** Our adult choir practices on Wednesday nights at 7 PM in the sanctuary. This is a low-key group of folks who love to sing. If you're interested in singing as part of the choir, come to any practice or speak with our Director of Music Judy Shaw. All musical abilities welcome!

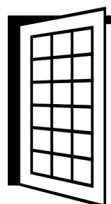
**Advent and Christmas Worship Leadership:** We have many opportunities to lead worship coming up. Sign up in the narthex to serve Communion or read scripture during Christmas Eve Worship or on December 28.

**Loaves and Fishes:** Loaves and Fishes is a Soup Kitchen that partners with faith and community groups to provide an evening meal seven nights a week. We'll serve the meal on Wednesday, December 31. This month we'll provide pizza and salad. We'll use any leftover cookies from Little Bethlehem as the dessert, so depending on our Little Bethlehem cookie supply, we may need a few more. We'll let you know after December 14. You can serve with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness! Contribute to the meal by baking, transporting food, serving food, cleaning up. Scan the QR Code to sign up to contribute.



**Giving Tree in Narthex:** We have a giving tree in the narthex/lobby. We're collecting gift cards to Walmart and Break Time for a family as well as items for Room at the Inn. If you would like to contribute, please take an ornament or two or three off the tree. Please return all items to the office by Sunday Dec. 21.

**Invite Someone to Christmas Eve:** Inviting others to experience the goodness and grace of God is a core practice of our faith. It can be as simple as Philp's invitation to Nathanael (John 1:46) to "come and see." Our Christmas Eve service is a great opportunity to invite a friend, coworker, neighbor, second cousin, whomever, to come and see. We'll sing carols, read the Christmas story, and end with singing Silent Night in candlelight. We'll worship at 5 PM on Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve. Invite someone today!



Fairview United Methodist Church | 3200 Chapel Hill Road, Columbia, MO 65203  
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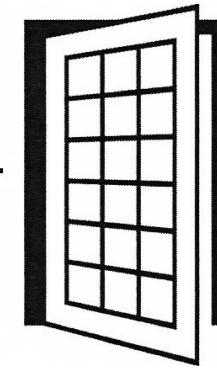
FB: @FairviewUMC | IG: @fairviewumccomo

Our Mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

Our Vision: to be a neighborhood church where YOU make a difference

Core Values: We are faithful, relational, inclusive, genuine, and service-oriented

Core Practices: Worship. Pray. Grow. Serve. Give. Invite.



FAIRVIEW  
UNITED  
METHODIST

Third Sunday of Advent | December 14, 2025 | 10 AM

Gathering Music

Judy Shaw

Greeting

Rev. Nancy Martin, Pastor

\*Hymn

People, Look East

UMH 202 v. 1-3

\*Call to Worship

Stacy Drane, Liturgist

Here in worship—

**we pray together,**

**we stand together,**

**we sing together,**

**we listen together.**

**Here in worship— we are not alone.**

So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, or to worry, remember this moment.

**We are not alone.**

Let us worship our with-us God.

Call to Confession

Rev. Nancy Martin

Prayer of Confession & Words of Forgiveness

When you were afraid, did I stay by your side? Did I offer my hand, or did I leave you alone? When you were afraid, did I choose solidarity? Did I see your fear, or did I only see mine?

**Friend, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes. Fortunately, God offers grace, and we do too. So take a deep breath, and let's start again.**

Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.

**Now we must ask— when you were afraid, did we stay by your side? Did we offer our hands, or did we leave you alone? When you were afraid, did we choose solidarity? Did we see your fear? Or did we only see ours?**

Friends, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes. Fortunately, God offers grace, and I do too. So take a deep breath, and let's start again.

**Thank you. Your mercy is a gift. We accept your grace and would love to start again.**

May it be so, with God’s help.  
**Alleluia! Amen.**

Hymn                      Light the Advent Candle                      TFWS 2090 v. 3

Lighting the Advent Candle                      The Blankenship Family  
In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?  
**We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.**  
You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us. Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.  
*Light candle.*  
**Thanks be to God for that good news! Amen.**

Joys and Concerns; Prayers of the People                      Rev. Nancy Martin

The Lord's Prayer  
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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Survey

Children's Moment                      Rev. Nancy Martin  
Children are welcome to come to the front to hear about the scripture we're focusing on today. Adults may accompany their child(ren). Children can also stay in their seats.

Hymn                      Come and Let Us Sweetly Join                      Bulletin Insert

Prayer for Illumination                      Stacy Drane

Scripture                      Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSVUE)  
Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been

spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon                      Rev. Nancy Martin

Hymn                      What Child Is This                      UMH 219 v. 1 & 2

Generosity Moment                      Rev. Nancy Martin

\*Doxology                      UMH 94

Offertory Prayer                      Stacy Drane

The Great Thanksgiving

\*Closing Hymn                      We're Not Alone                      Bulletin Insert

\*Benediction                      Rev. Nancy Martin

Postlude                      Judy Shaw

The asterisk (\*) indicates when to stand in body or spirit;  
UMH stands for the United Methodist Hymnal; TFWS stands for The Faith We Sing. Find these books in the pews.

Children are welcome in all aspects of our worship service. They can stay with their adult(s) or attend nursery or Children’s Church. Nursery care is available starting at 9:45 AM for children four years old and under. Children’s Church happens during our service, for those four years old through fifth grade, after the Children’s Moment. Children learn more about the scripture we are focusing on in the worship service. Adults pick up their children after worship from the Children’s Church room at the end of the Children’s Corridor. All volunteers who work with children and youth have passed a background check, have been Safe Gatherings trained, and uphold our Safe Sanctuary policies and procedures.

Holy Communion: We, in the United Methodist Church, practice Open Communion, meaning anyone who loves Jesus, who earnestly repents of their sin, and seeks to live in peace with one another is welcome to the table. We use bread or crackers and grape juice, so as to have as inclusive a table as possible. Gluten free wafers and individual cups of grape juice are available on the stand between serving stations. Please place your empty cup in the basket.

We have an offering plate in the back of the sanctuary as you exit the double doors.  
To give online, please scan this code using your smart phone’s camera:



Prayers by and adapted from Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Where have you seen God today?  
Where did you see God this week?  
Share it with us! email [office@frontyardchurch.org](mailto:office@frontyardchurch.org)