Fairview United Methodist

First Sunday of Advent | November 29, 2026 | 10 AM

Gathering Music — Judy Shaw, Director of Music

Greeting — Rev. Nancy Martin, Pastor

*Hymn — O Come, O Come, Emmanuel — UMH 211 v. 1, 6, 7

*Call to Worship — Suzanne Johnson, Liturgist

In God's house,
we are free to wear our hearts on our sleeves.
In God's house,
we may come exactly as we are.
In God's house,
we dare to hope. We dream new dreams. We cry out. We call upon God.
In God's house,
all are welcome and all are heard.
So come and worship.
God is here. God is listening.
Let us worship our with-us God.

Call to Confession — Rev. Nancy Martin

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we have been known—to bite our tongues, to work through a broken heart, to don our favorite rose-colored glasses. We have been known—to look for the bright side, to sweep the pain under the rug, to choose ignorance for the benefit of bliss. We have been known to keep the hurt in our heart to ourselves. Forgive us for filtering our honesty. Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament. Forgive us for not turning to you first. Remind us that you are a God who listens and you are a God who restores. With open hearts, we pray. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness — Rev. Nancy Martin

… So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
There is nothing we could do or say that will keep God's love at bay. We are seen, forgiven, and invited—into deeper honesty and deeper relationship. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn — Light the Advent Candle — TFWS 2090 v. 1

Lighting the Advent Candle

When the nights are long and the roads are hard,
we turn our eyes to the stars.
When the work is demanding and injustice unending,
we stand together, arm in arm.
When fear looms large and grief weighs heavy,
we cry out to God without holding back.
And when the dawn of tomorrow feels far away,
we gather together to light the candle of hope.
Like the stars above, may this light shine bright.
May it guide our path. May it inspire deeper hope.
Until God's promised day, may it be so.
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.

Generosity Moment — Rev. Nancy Martin

*Doxology — UMH 94

Offertory Prayer — Suzanne Johnson

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 — Raise Your Voice — Bulletin Insert

Prayer for Illumination — Suzanne Johnson

Scripture — Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (NRSVUE)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbors;

our enemies laugh among themselves.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

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

Sermon		Rev. Nancy Martin
Hymn	Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus	UMH 196
The Great Thanksgiving		UMH 13
*Closing Hymn	Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates	UMH 213
*Benediction		Rev. Nancy Martin
Postlude		Judy Shaw

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

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:

Download our app

Where have you seen God today?
Where did you see God this week?
Share it with us! email office@frontyardchurch.org

Ways to Participate in the Life of our Church:

Youth Group: The Fairview Youth Group meets every Sunday at 9:00 AM. This year youth group will be for people in 5th grade-12th grade. Invite a friend to attend with you! The Youth Room is downstairs in the alcove off the PreK rooms.

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

Sunday Book Study Group: Join us in the office at 11:15 AM to discuss the book "Dwelling Places: Words to Live in Every Season" by Lucinda Secrest McDowell.

Craft Evening: Come to the church office/library on second Fridays 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 8 at 6:00 PM** 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 **Saturday, December 12 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!

Generosity Opportunity: The Hands and Feet on the Street group is collecting items for the students of Douglas High School for their Holiday Bizarre. This event provides students the opportunity to "shop" for free gifts for themselves and their loved ones, allowing them to experience the joy of generosity and giving during the holiday season.

Nativity Play Practice: Fairview Kids and Youth will present a Christmas Play called "The Simple Small Gifts of Christmas" during worship on Sunday, December 13. YOU are invited to participate! There is something for everyone. Practice will be following worship, today in the Children's Church Room. If you have any questions please email Sherri Cawley - shelynn830@gmail.com

Little Bethlehem Set Set Up: We'll finish set up of the Little Bethlehem Set on Saturday, December 5 at 8:30 AM with an afternoon session at 1:00 PM. Wondering if you can be useful setting up sets? If you can hold a piece of foam board in place than you can do it! Each year we change more of the set over to lightweight panels. Come any time during the set up periods to contribute to set set up.

Christmas Cards: The Care Team is collecting Christmas Cards to distribute to Fairview Folks who are homebound. On Sunday, December 6 we will have a basket for each member. You can bring cards you've written to add to their baskets. We'll also have blank cards for you to fill out that day. A member of the visiting team will then deliver the cards.

Joy Group Advent Study: Joy group invites YOU to an Advent study starting December 2 at 6 PM in the church office. We plan to meet on December 2, 9 and 16 and complete the 4 session study on January 6. Our study is: Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience. We would love for you to join us! If any questions, please feel free to contact Linda Pressley at pressley@socket.net

Living Windows: Join other Fairview Folks downtown to hand out postcard invitations on Friday, December 4 during Living Windows. Meet at Fairview at 5:45 to carpool/caravan with other Fairview Folks.

Little Bethlehem Prep Night: We're offering a training for all aspects of Little Bethlehem during Little Bethlehem Prep Night, **Friday, December 11 at 6:00 PM**. Whether you signed up to play Joseph or help with the refreshment table we'll give you the information you need to feel confident in your role. Attend Prep Night to better understand the part you'll play in Little Bethlehem - whether it's a costumed character, refreshment host, children's table host, costuming, greeter, music leader, etc.

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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 were YOU make a difference
Core Values: We are faithful, relational, inclusive, genuine, and service-oriented
Core Practices: Worship. Pray. Grow. Serve. Give. Invite.