

game, fellowship, and fun. Adults will pick up their children after the service 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. All children are welcome in all aspects of our worship. Feel free to keep your children with you or utilize nursery care or Children's Church.

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:

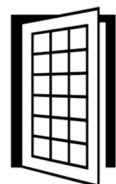


Ways to Participate in the Life of our Church:

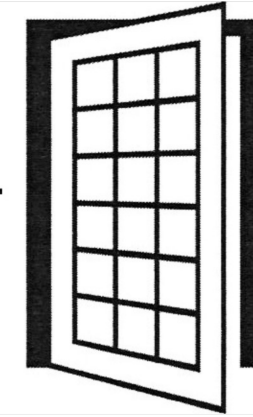
Sunday Bible Study: Join us for Bible study Sundays at 9:00 AM in the Pastor's Study. This is a discussion based group; bring a Bible and an open mind.

Adult Book Study Group: You're invited to join Fairview's Sunday morning book study. We'll read *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachel Billups, exploring the Nativity story through overlooked characters like Elizabeth, Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and shepherds. This insightful book highlights Advent themes of hope, love, joy and peace. Your insights on these overlooked characters will enrich our discussions as we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Contact Ewell Lawson at esjk1993@aol.com to learn more about this thoughtful and uplifting holiday study. We hope you can join us! Group is in hybrid format - in person & virtual. Meeting ID: 872 2387 8090; Passcode: Breakfast.

JOY Group: Joy Group meets Tuesdays nights in the church office at 6:30 PM. We are studying *Sent: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas* by Jorge Acevedo and others. Advent Study will be Tuesdays at 6:30 PM November 21-December 19. We'll start back with *Brave and Beloved* January 9th.



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
We are faithful, relational, inclusive, genuine, and service-oriented



FAIRVIEW
UNITED
METHODIST

First Sunday of Christmas | December 31, 2023 | 10 AM

Gathering Music

Judy Shaw

Greeting

Rev. Nancy Martin, Pastor

*Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234 v. 1-3

*Call to Worship

Tresia Griffith, Liturgist

L: Every year we celebrate Christmas.

P: Every month we break bread.

L: Every week we gather for worship.

P: Every day we count our blessings.

L: Every minute God is near.

P: Yes, every minute God is near.

L: These are the rituals of our faith.

P: Let us worship Holy God.

Opening Prayer

Tresia Griffith, Liturgist

Hymn

There's a Song in the Air

UMH 249 v 1,2,4

Lighting the Advent Candle

L: How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy, or know love?

P: How does a weary world combat cruelty?

L: How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night?

P: We do all these things with God's help. Because unto us a child has been born.

L: This day and every day, Christ draws near.

P: Today, we light the Christ Candle.

L: Today, we are not alone.

P: God is near. Love has drawn close. Rejoice! For God loves this weary world. 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.

Children's Moment Rev. Nancy Martin

Scripture Hymn Infant Holy, Infant Lowly UMH 229

Scripture Luke 2:21-38 Tresia Griffith, Liturgist

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Sermon We root ourselves in ritual Rev. Nancy Martin

Generosity Moment Rev. Nancy Martin

*Doxology (Tune UMH 221)

Praise the one Creator, praise the Living Christ,
Praise the Holy Spirit, praise both day and night.
Praise when you are weary, praise in times of joy.
Praise, my soul, with all your strength and your heart and voice.

Call to Confession Rev. Nancy Martin

Prayer of Confession Rev. Nancy Martin

P: God of rhythms, we confess: our faith would not be what it is without rituals. Unlike you, we depend on bread and water. We have to return to this space again and again to hear old, familiar stories. For if we stopped, we know it would not take long before we lost our way. Forgive us for our fragility, and thank you for giving us ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto. With grateful and humble hearts we pray. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

L: Friends, it is not enough to hear once a month or once a year that you are forgiven. We need to hear it every single week. Every single week we need to be reminded that we are held in God's loving embrace. So hear this good news: no matter where you are on your journey of life, love, or faith, and no matter what you have done or left undone, you belong to God. You are claimed. You are known. You are forgiven. This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God! Amen!

*Closing Hymn Go, Tell It on the Mountain UMH 251

*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

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

Nursery Care is available starting at 9:45 AM for children three years old and under. Children's Church happens during our service for those in fifth grade and under. During this time kids will learn more about the scripture we are focusing on in the worship service. There's usually a craft,