



FAIRVIEW  
UNITED  
METHODIST

Third Sunday of Advent | December 17, 2023 | 10 AM

Gathering Music Judy Shaw

Greeting Rev. Nancy Martin, Pastor

\*Opening Hymn Hark! the Herald Angel Sing UMH 240

\*Call to Worship Stacy Drane, Liturgist

L: Our God can part the sea.

**P: God can bring water from a rock, and provide bread in the desert.**

L: Our God can walk on water.

**P: He can heal the sick, and turn water into wine.**

L: Our God sets the stars in the sky.

**P: God hears our voice when we cry, and is closer than our own breath.**

L: There is nothing our God cannot do.

**P: Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.**

Opening Prayer Stacy Drane

Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH 230 v 1&3

Lighting the Advent Candle

L: How does a weary world practice joy?

**P: By dancing, and throwing birthday parties.**

L: By hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies. By singing loudly, and looking for good news.

**P: By telling the story of Jesus, and showing up for our community.**

L: There are a million ways to practice joy. So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder and a charge.

**P: With God's help, may we bring joy into a 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 Nativity Play

Children are welcome to come to the front to hear about the scripture we're focusing on today. Adults may accompany their ~~child(ren)~~ or children can stay in their seats.

### Christmas Cantata

The Fairview Choir

### 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

### Words of Forgiveness

L: Community of faith, Just as we marvel at mountains and newborns, at sunrises and sunsets, God marvels at us. There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could prevent God from loving you. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**P: We are forgiven. We are loved. We belong to God. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn    Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates    UMH 213 v. 1-3

### \*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, 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](mailto: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. Starting November 21st we'll begin an Advent Study *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.

**How the Grinch Stole Christmas:** Join us Today at 2pm in our gym for a showing of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (the 1966 version). Wear your Christmas pajamas and spend some time in *Whoville* (the gym) playing games and crafting. We'll watch the movie and enjoy popcorn and Christmas cookies. This is a free, community event. Invite your friends and neighbors! Sign up to attend or help on the app or in the Narthex!

**Christmas Eve Readers:** Our Christmas Eve worship service will include Holly Communion, Candle light, and Lessons and Carols! We need readers for the lessons. Would you be willing to stand at the pulpit and read scripture? If so sign up in the Narthex today!!



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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