

Ways to Participate in the Life of our Church:

End of Year Gift: The end of the year is a great time to give to our church! Your generosity enables us to work toward our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Your generosity enables us to be a neighborhood church where you can make a difference. Your generosity supports our core values and our core practices. Together we are Faithful, Relational, Inclusive, Genuine, and Service-oriented. Together we worship, pray, grow, serve, give, and invite. Your generosity changes lives! Give online, through the app, or in the plate at the back.

Emotionally Healthy Spirituality: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality is based on the premise that emotional health and spiritual health are inseparable and that many of us get stuck spiritually because we haven't done the hard work of becoming emotionally healthy. You'll learn how to slow down your life and deepen your relationship with Jesus. Join other United Methodists from across the state in this online class Wednesday evenings starting January 21. Scan the QR code to learn more and register.

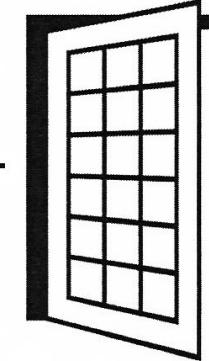
Sunday Bible Study: Join us for Bible study Sundays at 9:00 AM in the Pastor's Study. The class is currently discussing Acts of the Apostles.

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.

Fairview Women in Faith: Fairview Women in Faith will meet **Thursday, Jan. 8, at 1:30 PM** in the church office. A presenter from First/Last Mile Valet Service will speak. The organization's mission is to eliminate transportation barriers by providing safe, reliable and accessible transportation, empowering individuals to reach their full potential. They specialize in bridging the "first/last mile" gap for individuals and organizations, such as getting employees to work, clients to appointments, or voters to polling places. All Fairview women are invited to join FWIF for discussion and refreshments following the presentation.

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, salad, and Christmas cookies. You can serve with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness! Contribute to the meal by baking, transporting food, serving food and/or helping clean. Scan the QR Code to sign up to contribute.

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 Philip'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!



Fourth Sunday of Advent | December 21, 2025 | 10 AM

Gathering Music

Judy Shaw

Greeting

Rev. Nancy Martin, Pastor

*Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234 v. 1-3

*Call to Worship

Community of faith, God is at work!

God is healing and creating,

redeeming and dreaming,

calling and sending,

listening and loving.

Yes, indeed, God is at work!

So may we worship our God who never gives up.

May we worship our God who holds onto hope. Amen.

Stacy Drane, Liturgist

Call to Confession

Rev. Nancy Martin

Prayer of Confession

On-the-move God, we have every reason to hold onto hope. We have every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise. And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers. With anxious hearts we cry out to you, "Will change ever come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?" Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining. Show us the places where you are on the move. With open hearts we pray. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Community of faith, in our honesty, **we are heard.**

In our worries, **we are held.**

In our failings, **we are forgiven.**

In our fear, **we are not alone.**

Friends, this is the good news of the gospel!

When we're running out of hope, God is still at work.

Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

Hymn

Light the Advent Candle

TFWS 2090 v. 4

Lighting the Advent Candle

Gerald and Sandy Brooks

In a world full of fear, where do you see the presence of love?

We see love all around us. We see love when people hold open the door. We see love in a warm embrace, a homemade casserole, a phone call after a long day. We see love in random acts of kindness and intentional acts of empathy. We see love all around us.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, love is all around us. Today we light the candle of love as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, love is here. Love is world-changing. Love is shining bright. We only have to look for it.

Light candle.

Thanks be to God for a love like that! 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

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.

Choir Cantata

The Ballad of Bethlehem

Generosity Moment

Rev. Nancy Martin

*Doxology

UMH 94

*Closing Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed UMH 203 v. 1, 3, 4

*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.



Christmas Poinsettias

Given to the glory of God in honor of:

Floyd & Dian Lawson and Joe & Katie Lawson by Ewell and Shari Lawson

Our children, grandchildren, & great-grandchildren by Tom and Beth Kenney

Ida Grant and Judy Travis by KD Berrey and Betsy Mathews

Given to the glory of God in memory of:

Butch and Ann Laurenson by Ewell and Shari Lawson

Alice Allbright and Evangeline Barklage by Joan and Jerry Sullivan

Katherine A. Smith by Fred Smith

Lushen Gram Claridge by Beth Gillespie

Barbara & Earl Clark and Loetta & Clyde Brown by Randy and Sheila Clark

Kaye Sigmund by Jerry Sigmund

Gladys & Delmar Salisbury and Opal & Kermit Pearson by Jeanie and Steve Pearson

Harold E. Koons and Grace A. Koons by their daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

David McFann by Marjorie McFann

Leo & Helen Brooks and Howard & Arlene Barnes, parents of Gerald and Sandy Brooks by Gearld and Sandy Brooks

Download our app



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)