

Traditional Service

December 3, 2017
11:10 AM

I WOULD LIKE MORE INFO ABOUT:

- Sunday School
- Wednesday Night Activities
- Children's Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Music Ministry
- What UM Christians believe
- Committing My Life To Christ
- Being Baptized
- Becoming A Member
- Joining a Connexion Group

Poinsettia Order Form \$17/plant

Donor's Name:

In Memory Of:

In Honor Of:

Number of Poinsettias Ordered:

Amount of \$ enclosed:

Orders must be placed by December 17th

CALENDAR

SUNDAY

3

9:00 am	Celebration Service
10:00 am	Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall
10:15 am	Sunday School
11:10 am	Traditional Service
3:00 pm	Christmas Play Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)

WEDNESDAY

6

5:30 pm	Timothy Team (grades K-6th)
6:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6:45 pm	Basement Student Services (7th-12th)
6:45 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:45 pm	Celebration Team Rehearsal

SUNDAY

10

9:00 am	Celebration Service
10:00 am	Fellowship Time in Fellowship Hall
10:00 am	Communion in the Sanctuary
10:15 am	Sunday School
11:10 am	Traditional Service
4:00 pm	Christmas Play Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
5:30 pm	Christmas Play and Potluck

SERMON

Under Wraps: God Is Expectant *Isaiah 9:6-7 & Luke 1:39-45 (NIV)*

During this season, many people have high hopes and great expectations; they expect joy to fill their lives, expect the month of December to be filled with holiday cheer. What expectations do you have this Christmas season? Are these expectations any different from those in the past? If so, how?

God is a God of Surprises, God is a God of Expectation Have you ever been surprised by God?

What were the reactions of Zechariah and Elizabeth when the Angel Gabriel announced they would be the parents?

What was Mary's reaction to her news?

God is Expectant of Us If God is expectant, does that mean God waits on us humans? Why or why not?

What specific expectations might God have of you?

God expects us to...
_____ in our faith.
_____ His Word.
_____ with people outside our normal spheres.
God expects us to _____ to the great gift of Jesus.
God expects us to _____ by being watchful and waiting.
God expects us to _____ the story of Jesus, a story we should never get tired of telling or hearing.

God is Expectant.



Under Wraps

THE GIFT WE NEVER EXPECTED

First Sunday of Advent



WELCOME

Message from the Pastor

The table is cleared; perhaps the hectic pace of the season has begun. What are you expecting for Christmas this year? What are your hopes for the season?

Christmas was God's master plan to change the world in a way no one expected. Jesus' birth would only be the first of many ways that God defied everyone's expectations. Jesus was a Messiah who surprised us. Immanuel—God with us. Jesus was the gift everyone needed but no one expected.

We are glad you have joined us for worship this morning as we kick-off the Advent/Christmas season and we encounter an Expectant God.



WHO WE ARE

Our Vision

We believe that God has put us here at this time to faithfully seek Him and make Him known through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Our Values*

Prayer, Love, Worship
Bible-Based Preaching & Teaching
Children & Youth Ministry
Discovering God's vision for our church

What We Believe

Many people believe they are Christian because they were born into a religious home or they go to church, tried their best, or are a moral person. However, the Bible teaches that these things do not make you a Christian. You become a Christian simply by:

1. Acknowledging that you, like all people have sinned and fallen short of God's standards. The Bible calls sin a desire to live independently of God. (Romans 3:23)
2. Personally believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins on the cross and rose again. (Romans 6:23)
3. Repenting (turning away from your sins), confessing, and accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. (Romans 10:9)

You may express your desire and belief in prayer, asking Jesus to come into your life, and receiving grace as God's gift to you. The Bible is clear that we all enter into a relationship with God through His mercy and grace.

*Bold = Focus of Today's Message

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 3, 2017 | First Sunday of Advent

Pastoral Welcome & Announcements

Inviting God's Presence and Action: O Christ our hope: May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation. O come, O come, Emmanuel. Amen.

Advent Wreath: Candle of Hope *Fredericksons*

Prelude "Prelude no. 6 in d minor" - Job Smoot

Call to Worship Liturgist — Larry Dodgen

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
Congregation: For God is with us, smiling upon us with love.

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
Congregation: For Christ has saved us from our enemies, our sins, and our fears.

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
Congregation: For God's Spirit shines upon us, giving light for our darkness.

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!
Congregation: Let us worship God together!

***Hymn of Praise** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #196 all verses

***Affirmation of Faith** *Christmas Creed*

I believe that Christmas is more than a time for parties and ornaments; it is a time for remembering Christ and the incarnation of God's love in human flesh.

I believe there are gifts more important than the ones under the Christmas tree, such as the songs we teach our children, the way we share ourselves with friends, and the industry with which we set about reshaping the world in our time.

I believe that the finest carols are often sung by the poorest voices, from hearts made warm by the wonder of the season.

I believe in the angel's message that we should not be afraid—that the child of Bethlehem is able to overcome all anxieties and insecurities.

I believe in prayer and quietness as a way of appropriating Christmas, that if I wait in silence I will experience the presence of the One born in the stables, for he lives today as surely as he lived then. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Children's Time Glenda Gorszcyk
(Please greet one another as the children come forward.)

Anthem "How Many Noels?" - Vicki Tucker Courtney Chancel Choir

Joys & Concern

Mission Moment

Giving of God's Tithes, Our Offerings and Our "Extra Dollars" †

Offertory "Waiting/O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
- arr. Rebekah Lindstrom & Job Smoot

*Advent Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*December Memory Verse

Isaiah 9:6 NRSV

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:6-7 (OT pg. 606) & Luke 1:39-45 (NT pg. 54)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon "God is Expectant" Rev. Clark Atkins

Service of Word and Table pg. 13

***Hymn of Commitment** "Lead on, O King Eternal" #580 all verses

***Benediction:** The Lord bless you, and keep you; The Lord make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace. *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

***Benediction Response** Prepare the Way of the Lord #207

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God!
Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God!**

Postlude "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" - arr. Job Smoot

* Please stand if able

NURSERY

Childcare for infant, toddler, and preschool aged children is provided during both services. There is also a nursing mothers room located just off the Fellowship Hall. While the nursery is available for our youngest members, parents with school-aged students are encouraged to bring their children to the worship services. Kids activity packs are available on the table in the Narthex.

†EXTRA DOLLARS

There is a brochure with the story of the "Extra Dollar" in the Information Rack in the Welcome Center.

CONNECT CARD

Traditional - 12/3/17

We are so glad that you are here and hope you feel at home as you join us in worship. Whether you are a guest, or a member, please fill out and return this card so we can know you were here!

Please Check Appropriate Box:

- First Time Guest*
- Repeat Guest
- Member
- My address has changed

Name: _____

Names of children ages 0-18 in attendance

today: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Check here if you would like to be added to our weekly email list.
Email: _____
Joys, Concerns, God Sightings: _____

Check box if you do not wish to have your prayer requests published.

**If you are a first time guest today, we have a gift for you! Please go to the welcome table outside the chapel where your completed "Connect Card" may be traded for a gift certificate to Barnett's Dairyette.*