

*December 1, 2024
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
1st Sunday of Advent*



Welcome! We're glad that you're here. Please use the time before worship to prepare your heart and mind for being in the presence of God. The musical prelude is offered as a time of spiritual preparation

*Please let us know you are here,
especially if you are new to worship with us!
Simply open your camera on your smart phone and
aim it at the code below. Thank you!.*



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ENTRANCE

Prelude & Processional
“How Far Is It to Bethlehem” by Wagner
(Karen Weirman)

Welcome & Announcements
This is the day the Lord has made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Passing of the Peace

Opening Prayer
Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
#211 (Vs. 1,2,7)

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

A Time Mostly For Children

Anthem 9:00 “Hallelujah” by Raney (Celebration Bells)
11:00 “O Sing A Song of Bethlehem”
(Herald Bells)

Lighting of the Advent Candle
Reader: The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.”

Congregation: While fear, anxiety, and darkness surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.

Reader: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God's kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

Moment of Silence, Prayer of the People and Lord's Prayer

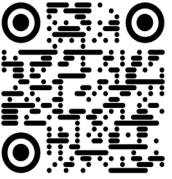
Scripture Reading Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Sermon: “It's the Waiting...” Rev. Wesley S Dickson

THANKSGIVING

Invitation/Confession

Moment of Gratitude and Generosity
Want to give electronically? Please scan the code to give now! Thank you!



Offertory “O Come, All Ye Faithful”
9:00 Celebration Bells// 11:00 Herald Bells

Doxology “Christmas Glory”
(Last part of “Angels We Have Heard”)

Prayer of Dedication
All things come from you, O God, and with gratitude we return to you what is yours. You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you. And so, for all your gifts, we offer ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for us. By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Sacrament of Holy Communion
9:00 “A Pastoral Christmas” (Celebration Bells)
11:00 “In Quietness and Confidence” (Herald Bells)

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” #196

Benediction

Recessional “Be Near Me Lord Jesus”
(Tune of Away in a Manger)

Postlude “Trumpet Tune” (Karen Weirman)

*The flowers on the altar are placed in honor of
Jim and Debbie Speicher's 30th Anniversary*

Church Happenings

Thank you Missions/Altar Guild for hosting coffee hour today.

Memorial Ornament If you have lost a loved one from your immediate family this year and would like to have an ornament with their name to put on the memorial Christmas tree, please call or contact Bobbie Baird or Bonnie DuCharme SOON. You should take the ornament home on Christmas Eve or soon after Christmas. The All Saints names will already be included.

Christmas Cantata Join us on December 8 at both services for the presentation of "A New and Glorious Morn." Be sure to bring your friends and family for this beautiful musical presentation!

The Mitten Tree is Back! It's starting to get cold outside, and there are many children who don't have warm clothing. We are again collecting items to help keep them warm including new or gently used children's coats, hats, gloves, boots, PJ's, socks, and small blankets. We will distribute donations to six local shelters. Please bring donations and place on or under the mitten tree in the narthex any time during the month of December. Because of you, a child will be warm!

Noah's Ark Mission Collection The missions committee is joining with Michaella Johnston again this year to help the children at Noah's Ark Children's home in Uganda. Michaella will be spending her Christmas break in Uganda. \$1,000 will pay for medication for the children for one year. Any additional money collected will be used to purchase beds, as children at Noah's Ark are sharing beds and even sleeping on the floor. The mission committee will match congregational giving up to \$1,000.

Contemporary Worship Service We are proud to offer a much more relaxed experience of worship each Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m. Join us!

Sunday Email If you are not receiving a Sunday morning email for Wesley and wish to be added, please contact Pastor Wesley at wesley@umcnl.com. You'll receive an email each Sunday at 7:30 a.m. with the most current information related to happenings at UMCNL.

Get Involved

UMM Advent Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday December 7 at 8:00 a.m. at Pepper Mill Family Restaurant at 19137 S. Wolf Road in Mokena. This will give our chefs a break from the kitchen and we all can have a few hours of fellowship together and enjoy the season.

UMCNL Cookie Sale will be Saturday, December 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Donations wanted, please sign up in Narthex!

Friendship Group Our next Friendship Group Luncheon will be December 19, 2024 at Noon at the Aurelio's located at 9901 W. Lincoln Way, Frankfort. The Sponsors are Mike Buell, Jim Speicher and Mark Wieclaw. Guest will be Kenny Haas. All are invited 55+ to see you there. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex next to the name tags.

Ruth Circle will meet for lunch at 1:00 p.m. Monday, December 9 at Gattos. Please call Bobbie with your reservation by December 6. 485-6856

Hannah Circle's annual Christmas party will be at Beggars Pizza in New Lenox at 6:30 p.m. Friday, December 13. All women of the church are cordially invited! The cost will be approximately \$20-25 per person. We will enjoy fun games, great food, and wonderful fellowship. If you can attend, please email or text Laurie Teska by December 9 (LPedziwiatr@comcast.net or (630) 408-2718). In addition, we will have a coffee or tea mug exchange. Participation is optional, but if you wish to participate, bring a mug (costing \$10 or less) in a bag or wrapped. Bring a friend! Questions? Call or text Jane at (815) 258-8304.

Grief Share A new year is a time for new beginnings. Our GriefShare team will begin a new series on January 8, 2025 at 10 a.m. We will be using the updated videos and workbooks. All are welcome and you may call the church office for more details. (815) 485-8271

Greeters Needed We are looking for greeters on Sundays! Please contact Joyce Korista at (815) 485-6879 if you can help!

Welcome Center Volunteers are needed on Sundays! If you are interested and/or have any questions, please contact Amanda Fox at amandaseverson1281@gmail.com

Youth Updates

Youth Group Join us! UMCNL will host a weekly youth program for 7-12 grade students every Wednesday from 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. We would love for you to join us! Keep in touch via email and text by texting JOINUYM to 84576 or connect online with us at unitedmethodistchurchofn.flocknote.com

Sunday School Schedule in December:

12/1 - Elizabeth and Zechariah. Luke 1: 5-25

12/8 - Mary and Elizabeth. Luke 1: 39-45

12/15 - Joseph and the Angel. Matthew 1: 18-24

12/22 - Jesus and his family and Angels and Shepherds. Luke 2: 1-20

12/29 - No Sunday School

Nursery in December There will be nursery available for children from 8 weeks to age 2 on December 1st, 15th, and 22nd. Due to a lack of volunteers, there will not be a nursery on December 8th. Would you like to be a part of this special ministry and serve one Sunday a month at 9:00 a.m. service? Please contact Linda Haring at lharing15@gmail.com

Contact Us/Prayer Requests

Would you like to connect with one of our Pastors? Please see the contact information below or you can scan one of the codes below using your smartphone to directly set an appointment. If you have a prayer request, please scan the prayer request code.

Pastor Mark: Call/text: 815-587-3795; mark@umcnl.com

Pastor Wesley: Call/text: 630-708-2470; wesley@umcnl.com

Terri Novy: Call/text: 815-370-3063; terri@umcnl.com

Pastor Mark



Prayer Requests



Pastor Wesley

