



Fort Des Moines United Methodist Church is committed to the Great Commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20: **“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”**

Fort Des Moines is a caring community of people who will care for you regardless of who you are. If you are looking for a place where Christ's love is evident and God's grace is offered to all, then I hope you will join us for worship and fellowship.

If you are visiting today, we hope that you feel welcome. The worship service is our gift to you. Following this service you are invited to join us for coffee, fellowship and Sunday School.

We welcome children in our worship. However, if necessary, we do have a nursery and cry room on the second floor. The cry room is located on the left at the top of the stairs and the nursery is located to the right at the top of the stairs.

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FORT DES MOINES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship 11:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Advent December 24, 2017

*... the child to be born
will be holy; he will be
called Son of God.*

Luke 1:35, NRSV



** Please stand as you are able*

Gathering Music “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”
Traditional English Carol, arr. Goldston/Jenkins

Introit UMH #328 *“Surely the Presence of the Lord”*

Call to Advent Season

Leader: “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father, David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever (Luke 1:32-33a)

People: **As the angel announced the coming of the Son of God, so we hear God’s promise, and we surrender ourselves to God’s direction.**

Leader: We hear an angel telling us of the coming of the Christ-Child, just as shepherds did years ago.

People: **Sometimes we do not hear because we are occupied with other things. We pray so that we can hear your words for us today.**

***Hymn** UMH #219 *“What Child is This?”*

Unison Prayer

As Christmas trees are lit, as people rush to shops and send their cards, as Christmas songs are heard everywhere, keep us close to you, that the One whose coming we celebrate – Jesus Christ—may be honored by all we do. May all that we do in this season shine forth with your love. May Christ be seen in us; for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 61:8-11 (NIV)

“For I, the Lord, love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.”

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Time with Children of God

Hymns of Advent

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Choral Anthem

**“What If the Manger Were Empty?”
by Susan Naylor Callaway**

Epistle Lesson

Romans 16:25-27 (NIV)

Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith—to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Hymn of Illumination UMH #214 “Savior of the Nations, Come”

*Gospel

Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

Sermon

“A Surprise We Can Expect”

Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Dass

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
by Lewis H. Redner, arr. Randall Hartsell

***Doxology** UMH #94

Prayer of Dedication

We bring these offerings to further your rule among us. We dedicate them to your honor and glory. May they herald your victory among all who truly seek a better way. Amen.

***Hymn** UMH #220 *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”*

***Benediction**

***Response** UMH #431 *“Let There Be Peace on Earth”*

Postlude “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”
Medieval Latin Carol

This Week's Calendar

Today, Dec. 24: 9:45 a.m. UMC Worship

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

1:00 p.m. BNTC Worship

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

8:00 p.m. AA in Fellowship Hall

Monday, Dec. 25: Offices are closed

Tuesday, Dec. 26: 9:30 a.m. ELL Class in Youth Room

11:00 a.m. NO Bible Study this week.

7:00 p.m. AA in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 27: 9:30 a.m. ELL in the Youth Room

Thursday, Dec. 28: 9:30 a.m. ELL in the Youth Room

7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous in Fellowship Hall

Friday, Dec. 29: 8:00 a.m. BNTC Prayer Meeting in Chapel

9:30 a.m. ELL in the Youth Room

5:00 p.m. BNTC in the Youth Room

8:00 p.m. AA in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, Dec. 30: 7:00 a.m. BNTC Women's Group in the Youth Room

9:30 a.m. ELL Citizenship class in Conference Room

11:00 a.m. BNTC in Youth Room

4:00 p.m. Community Meal in Fellowship Hall

7:30 p.m. NA in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Dec. 31: 9:45 a.m. UMC Worship

11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

1:00 p.m. BNTC Worship

8:00 p.m. AA in Fellowship Hall

Attendance last week: 49

Prayer Concerns: Ft. Des Moines UMC, it's programs and leaders; the Bhutanese Nepali Truth Church, it's programs and leaders; those home bound and their caregivers; and those we especially name: Frances Ramsey, Virginia Durham, Ruby Price, and Twilla Dillard.

Our **Christian Sympathies** to the family and friends of Donna Ness, who died on Dec. 16.

Christmas Eve Service will be this evening at 7:00 p.m.

The **Tuesday Bible Study** will not meet this week, but will resume next Tuesday, Jan. 2.

Opportunities to Serve

There are always many opportunities to serve at Fort Des Moines. There are a few possibilities listed below, but you are not limited to these. If you have a passion for a certain kind of service or feel God might be calling you to some specific area, please let us know. If you have a particular date that you know would work well for you to be involved in some of these, let us know that as well. Circle the ones that interest you.

Thank you.

- Read Scripture
- Acolyte (light the candles)
- Deliver Communion (to shut-ins)
- Sing in the choir
- Help with the Sunday School Program
- Work with altar flowers
- Other ideas:

We thank the many hands of the Women's Christian Fellowship for the **treats** during Coffee Hour today.

Donations, to be included in the 2017 Tax Year, must be in the church office by noon on Friday, Dec. 29th.

Next Sunday will be the last day to make a donation to **Heifer International**. This organization works directly with individuals, families, and communities to better their lives today and tomorrow. Use the special envelopes found in your bulletin. All donations will be sent in as one check at the start of 2018 to make a better life for others as we move into a new year.

If you are interested in **becoming a member** of Ft. Des Moines United Methodist Church, talk to Pastor Dass.

If you or someone you know is interested in **being baptized**, contact Pastor Dass.

Today is the last day to buy **nuts** for Christmas! The nut committee has a goal of selling out by Christmas. We have 29 lb. left & ask for everyone to purchase at least 1 lb. today to help us reach this goal & then to be able to put our profit to good use helping the church. We have 11 lb. of cashews, 15 lb. mixed & 3 lb. cranberry sweet raisin mix. These are all good snacks & we all know that nuts are good for you! Also, they make great hostess gifts or something special for friends, neighbors, the mailman, etc. Thanks to everyone for their support in purchasing & selling for us.

Upper Room Devotionals for January & February can be found on the devotional rack in the Narthex. Take home a copy today.

Your Prayer



Concerns

“In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let our requests be made known to God” - Philippians 4:6

Let your prayer requests be made known to God through our prayer groups and pastor who will pray for you or ones listed below. Your prayer concerns can be for a church member, a family member, a friend, or yourself. Please fill out below and place it in the offering plate.

Prayer for

Name:

Concern/s:

Welcome!

**We are a community of faith in worship and action,
open to all in the spirit and love of God.**

Please sign the friendship pad in the pew. Everyone is welcome to stay for refreshments and a time of visiting with your church family following the service.

We welcome children in our worship service. However, if necessary, we do have a nursery and cry room on the second floor. It is unattended so you will need to remain with your child. The cry room is located to the left at the top of the stairs and a nursery is located to the right (4th door on your right) at the top of the stairs.

Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Emmanuel Dass - Pastor
Donna Freed - Liturgist
Laurie Jenkins - Church Musician
Pamela Schisel - Choir Director
Jim Keller - Ushers
Rod Kent - Sound

Staff

Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Dass - Pastor
Jane White - Administrative Assistant
Laurie Jenkins - Church Musician
Chris Wulf - Custodian



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