

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2023

WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Welcome to Fairport UMC! We embrace the gift of diversity of our community and our world and proclaim that all persons are created in God's image. We celebrate all ways that the human family of Christ finds its diversity. Our vision is to nurture ALL people on their life journeys and to bring God's love to the world. *Masks are currently optional. Disposable masks are available in the coatroom and narthex for those who would like one.*

CHILDREN

We are glad you are here! There is a cart in the Narthex with Children's Activity Bags. We love to have children stay in worship (wiggles and giggles are welcomed and sacred sounds). We are not currently offering a staffed nursery, but the nursery room is available and open to parents and little ones. The service is also livestreamed in the nursery so you and your child can still participate in worship! Sunday School (children/youth) is at 9am.

OPEN TABLE

Communion is celebrated once a month (usually on the first Sunday of the month) and all (including children) are welcome at the table. We use all gluten/dairy free bread. If you don't want to receive communion but would like a blessing, you can indicate that to the pastor.

WORSHIP ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

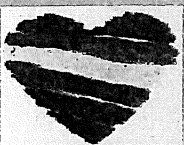
*indicates to stand in body or spirit

bold print indicates congregational response

UMH – United Methodist Hymnal (large blue hymnal)

FWS – The Faith We Sing (small black hymnal)

W&S – Worship & Song (small green hymnal)



FUMC is a Reconciling Congregation where all persons of any age, gender, gender identity, race, ethnic origin, economic reality, family status, sexual orientation, diverse ability or social status are welcome without reservation to share in God's love.

→ GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE →

The chimes call us to gather.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

See Amid the Winter's Snow

Archer

*CALL TO WORSHIP

How does a weary world rejoice?

We sing songs of hope.

We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us.

We tell the stories of what could be.

We listen for God's word.

We resist the temptation to give up or give in.

We remember Mary's song.

We gather for worship.

We hope.

We hope.

Against all odds, we hope.

Friends, this is the day that the Lord is still making.

Let us worship holy God.

*HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

UMH 230

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

How does a weary world practice love?

By sending cards, and picking up the phone.

By practicing empathy, and assuming the best in others.

By learning people's stories and finding common ground.

By advocating for justice, and saving a place at the table.

There are a million ways to practice love.

So today we light the candle of love as a reminder and a charge.

With God's help, may we bring love into a weary world. Amen.

— LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*GOSPEL READING (Mary’s Song of Hope) Luke 1:46-55

For the Word of God in Scripture; For the Word of God among us;
For the Word of God within us. **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Joy Leinenbach

*PASSING THE PEACE

*HYMN

Tell Out, My Soul

UMH 200

*GOSPEL READING (Zechariah’s Song of Hope) Luke 1:67-80

For the Word of God in Scripture; For the Word of God among us;
For the Word of God within us. **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

Rev. Richelle Goff

We sing stories of hope

— RESPONDING IN LOVE —

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Rebecca Camilleri, cello

arr. Nelson & Schmidt

*DOXOLOGY (UMH 94) & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

**You are invited to use a name for God that is most meaningful to you.*

— GOING INTO GOD'S WORLD —

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that hope can change the world.

**We believe that God uses ordinary people,
like an unwed teenage mother,
for extraordinary good.**

And we believe that each of these ordinary people can make a difference.

We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound.

We know that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to hope.

But we choose hope anyway.

In the face of hardship, we hope together.

We hope with God.

We hope for a better world.

This is our song.

We believe; help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray, amen.

*HYMN

Love Came Down at Christmas

UMH 242

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Held

Let us take these few moments for preparation,
for worship is over the service begins.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For Lindsey, age 28 and a mother of 3, who was diagnosed with Stage 4 Colon Cancer.
- For Brenda (Karen Felgenhour's sister) who is recovering from heart surgery.
- For Jean McFarland, who fell last week and is now home recovering.
- For Rachel Sorrell who has multiple serious injuries from an automobile accident. She is the daughter of Lynn and Anne Sorrell in Kingsport, TN. Several years ago they lived in Fairport and worshipped at FUMC. (Susan Newman)
- For people everywhere dealing with extreme weather and hazardous conditions.
- For peace in our world, instead of war, oppression, injustice, and violence.
- For the Middle East, Ukraine and other countries in the midst of the horror of war.

Prayer requests from Sanctuary House

(Women and children's homeless shelter FUMC visits)

Laila – for a new home filled with light & no worries; that everyone will love God now and forever.

Shawnda – for continued healing as I recover from cervical cancer.

Tammy – for peace, love and happiness and to get my own apartment.

Cheryl – for a new apartment and two more emotional support dogs.

Garrett – for the Lord to lead me and my son on our journey to help others.

Thank you, Lord! We love you!

Debra – for my living and housing situation to stabilize; I sincerely want to do the right thing as I am tired of moving from place to place. Thank you!

Ayani – for positive changes for my family; for wealth and health so our children's children will lack nothing; for the spirit of giving, love, joy, and peace in everyone's lives.

Kia – for my mental health, healing, and strength. Thank you and God bless!

Lindsay – for good health, positivity and an end to heartache, struggle and hurt; prayers also for my fiancé.

Alyssa – for the safe delivery of my baby and a new apartment; for an end to my stress.

F. Brooks – for my three-year-old daughter to have a wonderful and fulfilling school year and for a comfy home for us.

Deva – for my safety and to keep me humble and free from all negativity. Thank you!

Ignacio Family – for our transition into a new environment; for better health and family time. Thanks!

Perisia – for Perisici, Pheny, Tyreek Jr. and Tyreek Sr.

We continue our prayers for those who are in need of continued healing:

Becky Gualtieri, Julie & Tom Kielbasinski, Susan Grau, Ed Lewek, Barb George, Shirley Robinson, John Patison, Chip Rieck, Sandy Baldwin, Frank Mueller, Courtney & Joshua Pedersen, Judy Darrer, Jeff Latsha, Pat Hemmenway, John Hall, Jen Simpson, Martha McNeill, Genevieve, Joanne Mason, Carol Mueller, Jean Seidel, Kathy Walters, Gary Lorraine, Marlene Beisler

We pray for all those who are homebound or in nursing homes:

Shirley Ward, Cindy Jack, Carol Snow, Ruth Howard,
Cindy Stanton, Emmet and Marge Vanderburgh,
Wally Robinson (CT), Dave and Carolyn Hebert (KY)

***Blessings to Ryan and Wendy Boyce, and big sister Stella!
on the birth of Calvin Archer Boyce.***

PERMISSIONS

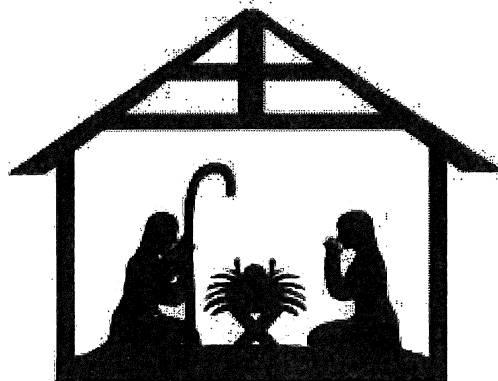
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Hymns: The United Methodist Publishing House; Hope Publishing Co; Oxford University Press

Overall Advent Theme by A Sanctified Art LLC

Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

O COME O COME EMMANUEL



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School and Youth Group

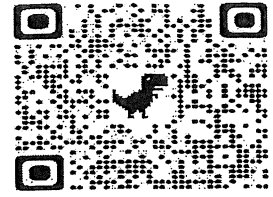
Your children and youth are invited to join us for Sunday school and youth group when it ***starts back up on January 7.***

Sunday school is during the 9:00am Worship hour for children 3yrs old – 12th grade.

Junior High and Senior High Youth groups take place on scheduled Sundays from 4-6.

Use the QR code to see our recent editions of our Family Ministry Weekly

Update and get more details about our Children's and Youth Ministries programs.



All Church Winter Carnival

Mark your new 2024 calendars with the date for the . . .

All Church Winter Carnival - February 4th!

Everyone is invited to enjoy ALL of the fun that comes with our annual Winter Carnival.

This year's theme is "**READY, SET, MOVE!!! Follow Jesus here, there and everywhere!**" We will be bringing back the very popular Chili Cook-Off, games, crafts, face painting, a scavenger hunt and MORE! More details will be coming in January so stay tuned to the Family Ministry Weekly Update emailed each Thursday.

Finance Report and Update

In the month of November, we were able to further reduce our 2023 operating fund deficit from \$24,000 to \$19,000.

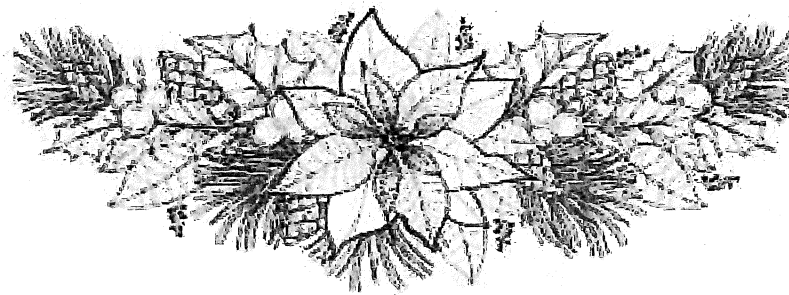
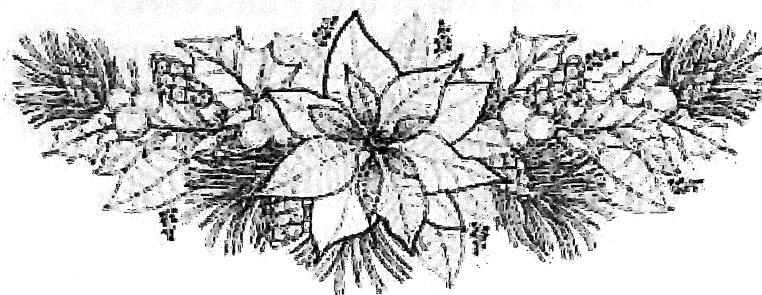
While we are unable to predict that we will fully close this deficit, we can report generous donations through last Sunday will at a minimum make a further significant reduction.

We are grateful for our congregation's generosity and are pleased to report this progress toward our goal of closing the current deficit.

Sunday, Dec. 31st we will have 1 combined service at 9:30am

SPIRITUAL GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP THIS WEEK

<i>Sunday, December 24</i>	9:30am 12:30pm 4pm 8pm	Worship Sunday Dinner - K / FH Christmas Eve - Children's Service Christmas Eve - Candlelight Service
<i>Monday, December 25</i>	<i>Merry</i>	<i>Christmas!</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 26</i>		
<i>Wednesday, December 27</i>		
<i>Thursday, December 28</i>		
<i>Friday, December 29</i>	10:30am	Heart Listening Small Group
<i>Saturday, December 30</i>	12pm	Al Anon - FH
<i>Sunday, December 31</i>	9:30am	Worship (only 1 worship service!)



MINISTERS AND STAFF OF FUMC

Ministers - All God's People

Pastor - Rev. Richelle Goff

richelle@fairportumc.org

Music Ministry Director - Nicole Camilleri

nicole@fairportumc.org

Family Ministries Director - Joy Leinenbach

joy@fairportumc.org

Administrative Assistant - Kevin Gordon

kevin@fairportumc.org

Custodian - Jamie Gualtieri

HELPING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Livestream Operator: Barry Bermudez

Reader: Bill MacKenzie

Feed the Spirit: Cookie Buffet