

Welcome

Today is Sunday, December 10, 2017

8:30 & 10:50 am **Worship Service, the Sanctuary**
 9:15 am Hospitality and Social Time, the Commons
 9:30 am Chin Immanuel Church, Ada Mead Hall
 9:30 am Alternative Christmas Mall, the Gathering Place
 9:30 am UMW Holiday Fair, the Commons
 9:35 am **Faith Studies @First**
 9:35 am Stephen Ministry, the Conference Room
 12:00 pm UMW Holiday Luncheon, the Commons
 12:00 pm YES Meal Prep, the Main Kitchen
 12:00 pm Youth Choir, Sanctuary
 12:30 pm Introduction to Mindful Meditation, the Parlor
 2:30 pm United Methodist Youth and Chancel Choir Caroling, meet near the Commons

From Participants to Partners

All are always welcome to participate in the life and ministries of FUMC Omaha. When you are ready to move from participant to partnership through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, please contact Pastor Jane or Cynthia by e-mail or phone; we'd be delighted to answer your questions and get to know one another!

Jane.Florence@fumcomaha.org; 402-556-6262 x1002
 Cynthia.Lindenmeyer@fumcomaha.org; 402-556-6262 x1006

Church Staff Contact Information

Clergy:

1002...Senior Pastor.....Jane.Florence@fumcomaha.org
 1006...Associate Pastor.....Cynthia.Lindenmeyer@fumcomaha.org

Music:

1021...Music Ministries.....Mark.Kurtz@fumcomaha.org
Music Associate/Organist.....Marie.Meyers@fumcomaha.org
Music Associate/Youth Choir.....Jill.Anderson@fumcomaha.org

Staff:

1008...Director of Religious Education.....Kyle.Sorys@fumcomaha.org
 1001...Administration & Communication.....Candice.Nielsen@fumcomaha.org
 1004...Membership Director.....Rosey.Higgs@fumcomaha.org
 1003...Finance Manager.....Gina.Torres@fumcomaha.org
 1010...Building Manager.....Steve.Nehrig@fumcomaha.org
 1009...Rainbow Factory Preschool.....Jamie.Pressnall@fumcomaha.org

7020 Cass St Omaha, NE 68132
 402-556-6262
www.fumcomaha.org

Office Hours:
 Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am-4:00 pm
 Sunday, 8:30 am-12:00 pm; Closed Friday & Saturday



Our Faith in Action



In December we will collect items for Living Hope UMC Food Pantry. Please bring in canned vegetables, beef jerky, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, and cake mixes. Gift cards to grocery stores are always welcomed and needed, too!

Spiritual Practices @First

All are welcome to join in at any time—no cost involved~

- ◆ Taizé Worship—1st Saturday monthly, 5:00 pm, Mead Chapel
- ◆ Yoga—Mondays, 9:30 am Thursdays, 6:15 pm, Mead Chapel
- ◆ Gentle Aerobics—Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 am, room 204
- ◆ Tai Chi For Balance—Tuesdays, 3:30 pm, Mead Chapel
- ◆ Meditation—Wednesdays, 12:00 pm, Mead Chapel
- ◆ Spiritual Practices—Wednesdays, 5:00 pm, the Parlor
- ◆ Centering Prayer, Sundays, 9:35 am, 1st Sunday monthly, 4:00 pm, Mead Chapel
- ◆ Outdoor Labyrinth, Garden & Gazebo—24/7

Mercy and Justice

Alternative Christmas Mall—Shop for donations to charitable organizations, as well as fair trade items from local vendors. Stop by and Check some of your loved ones off your list while also supporting mercy and justice. **Today, December 10, and December 17, 9:30 am, the Gathering Place**

Meals for Youth Emergency Services—Join Feeding Ministries the second Sunday of each month after 2nd service in the main kitchen. We will prepare casseroles for Y.E.S. Each night, 50-70 youth drop by their Harney Street location for something to eat. Contact Judy Prenzler, prenzlerjk@gmail.com, 402-889-8091, if you can assist or want more information. **Today, Sunday, December 10, 12:00 pm, the Main Kitchen**

Consistent Giving Made Easy

If you are interested in setting up automatic giving and would like assistance, contact Gina Torres at Gina.Torres@fumcomaha.org



Thank you for supporting the ministries of FUMC. Contribution letters are provided to identified donors for tax deduction records at year end.



Giving Station. There is a black stand with an iPad attached in the Narthex (foyer). It's a giving station that allows people to make donations and/or purchase FUMC items. More and more people do not carry checks or cash with them. Our Giving Station is another way to support our ministries. Whether you give by cash, check, automatic bank transfers, or the new credit card station, we give thanks for faithful and generous giving that allows our ministries to continue and our community to share God's love.



Faith Studies @First

Children & Youth

Children Faith Studies/Kids Zone – We offer fun, friendly, and up-beat faith learning for the youngest members of our faith community. We have classes year-round for children ages 3-year-old to 4th grade. Children will be dropped off and picked up in their individual classrooms.

- 3-year-old/Pre-K **Room 210**
- Kindergarten (5 & 6-year-olds) **Room 205 & 206**
- 1st and 2nd graders **Room 207**
- 3rd and 4th graders **Room 209**

Tween Scene – Moving from Elementary into Jr. High is an exciting time in the life of our children! Our tween scene Faith Studies group is for our 5th and 6th graders and meets every Sunday, and will be dropped off and picked up in their individual classroom on Sunday mornings

- Tween Scene (5th and 6th graders) **Room 208**

Youth Faith Studies – Our youth, in 7th through 12th grade, meet in Junior High and Senior High classes, and combine for service projects, fellowship events, and even special worship planning. Youth Faith Studies center around dynamic current events and motivating faith topics, and concentrate on faith formation, scripture literacy, interfaith dialogue, and all the stuff that matters.

- Junior High (7th and 8th graders) **Room 109**
- Senior High (9th - 12th graders) **Room 114**

Adult Classes—Sunday morning

Boomers +/- — Explore topics around the theme “Progressive Christian Living.” **Room 112**

Centering Prayer — This prayer time begins with 10 minutes of fellowship, followed by a 20-minute sit in silence, closing with The Lord's Prayer. All are welcome! **Mead Chapel**

Connections — These Gen-Xers meet to discuss the place of faith in addressing current social challenges. **Room 203**

Explorers — We will continue the discussion on *The (Un)Common Good: How the Gospel Brings Hope to a World Divided* by Jim Wallis. **Adult Education Library**

Faithlinks — This inter-generational class looks at a current issue through the lens of our Christian faith. **Room 111**

Sunday Afternoon & Weekday Opportunities:

- ◇ **Spiritual Practices**—All are welcome to explore a variety of ways to connect with the Holy and Journey in faith. **Wednesdays, 5:00 pm, the Parlor.**
- ◇ **ZUMBA**—Zumba is open to all skill levels. Join Pastor Cynthia move and groove! **Wednesday evenings, 6:30-7:30 pm, the Commons.**
- ◇ **Earth Vigil**—A small group gathering for silent meditation for the earth. **Third Wednesday monthly, 6:30-7:00 pm, Mead Chapel.**
- ◇ **Worship in the Tradition of Taizé** — A 45-minute spiritual service. **First Saturday monthly, 5:00 pm, Mead Chapel.**

****Please note we will have one morning service on December 24 and December 31 at 10:50 am. Faith Studies classes will not be meeting those Sundays, and will resume January 7, 2018.****

Sunday, December 10, 2017

10:50 am



PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Heathcote Statham

WELCOME

Personal listening devices and large print hymnals & worship guides are available from the ushers. Please silence your phones.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Jane Florence

God beyond our explanation, may we experience imaginative joy as we await the birth of your Son, who we hope will revitalize and re-center our vision of liberation. May Advent interrupt our illusions.

Deep calls to deep as sorrow prepares us for joy.

God of words that summon us from our sorrow, in your presence we are yet again aware of your calling to be different in the world. Awaken us to the coming birth.

Deep calls to deep as sorrow prepares us for joy.

God of a purpose, we do not always understand, help us to hold more closely to your goodwill, that our lives, our practices, and our journey may more fully reflect our love for you.

Deep calls to deep as sorrow prepares us for joy.

We jour-ney in - to Ad - vent in love, hope, peace and joy. We light the Ad - vent can - dles, our wait - ing car - ries on. Blue gives us hope while yet_ we_ mourn; our sor - rows shall not last. Christ Child brings heav'n-ly har - mo - ny and peace through-out the earth.

We light these trees, in the midst of our waiting. As we leave this place, may we see every Christmas tree as a symbol of love. May it illuminate the sacred in our waiting and open our eyes to the sacrament of our season.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"Blessed Be the God"

Red hymnal #209

GATHERING OF CHILDREN

"Star-Child"

(vs. 1) Black hymnal #2095

The children are invited to gather at the front of the church.

CHILDREN'S WORD

Dr. Jane Florence

Today is a gift from God.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

RESPONSE

"Star-Child"

(vs. 5) Black hymnal #2095

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:5-15, 18-2

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Paradox of Christmas Blue" Dr. Cynthia Lindenmeyer

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"O Come, O Come"

(vs. 1, 5, 6, 7) Red hymnal #211

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Joining today: Paige and Stephen Toller

Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care

We give thanks for all that God has already given you, and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hymn of Prayer

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

Red hymnal #204

Prayers of Concern

This we pray.

Hymn of Prayer

Prayers of Thanksgiving

This we pray.

Hymn of Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

***SALAAM, SHALOM, PEACE** be with you.

And also with you.

BECAUSE YOU GIVE

Chancel Choir

"Advent Kyrie"

John Parker and David Lantz III

Ceilings of cedar, lampstands of gold, bronze-covered pillars, beauty untold; yet in the splendor of all we behold, our hearts lie barren and cold. Kyrie, we pray for mercy. Kyrie, show us the way. Kyrie, send us a savior. Kyrie, kyrie, kyrie. Sign of deliverance, glimmer of peace, dreams of Messiah, visions increase; God, in your mercy, give us a sign. Send your redeemer divine. Kyrie, we pray for mercy. Kyrie, show us the way. Kyrie, send us a savior. Kyrie, kyrie, kyrie. Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy). Amen.

***Doxology**

Tune: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Praise Spirit-God, who comes with fire. Praise Jesus Christ, our heart's desire. Praise Love, who comes to seek us all, one God on whom our spirits call. God comes! God comes! Lift heart and voice, the Savior comes; let earth rejoice.

***COMMUNITY IN ACTION**

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

"People, Look East"

Red hymnal #202

***SENDING FORTH**

POSTLUDE

"Fling Wide the Door, Unbar the Gate"

Helmut Walcha



**Join us Sunday,
December 24, 2017**

10:50 am— We will have one morning service. Faith Studies Classes will not meet.

5:30 pm— This service is generally full and has lots of energetic children and an extra brass ensemble, so come early to get your seat!

9:00 pm— This service is more reflective in spirit, and it includes Holy Communion where all are welcome to the table.

There will be a Fellowship Potluck in room 112 between the two services. We invite all to bring a dish to share as we form community on this holy night.