

Welcome

Today is Sunday, December 23, 2018

8:15 am	Nursery Opens, room 105
8:30 & 10:50 am	Worship Service, the Sanctuary
9:15 am	Hospitality and Social Time, the Commons
9:35 am	Faith Studies @First
9:35 am	Children and Youth Christmas Eve Rehearsal, the Sanctuary
10:15 am	Chancel Choir, the Sanctuary

Please note the office will be open tomorrow at 2:00 pm.

Our office and church building will be closed Tuesday, December 25 and Wednesday, December 26, and will open Thursday, December 27 at 8:30 am.

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 Kent or Cynthia by e-mail or phone; we'd be delighted to answer your questions and get to know one another!

Kent.Little@fumcomaha.org; 402-556-6262 x1002

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



Join us on Christmas Eve, tomorrow!

Monday, December 24, 2018

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.

Church Staff Contact Information

Clergy:

1002...Lead Pastor..... Kent.Little@fumcomaha.org

1006...Associate Pastor..... Cynthia.Lindenmeyer@fumcomaha.org

Music:

1021...Director of Music Ministries Mark.Kurtz@fumcomaha.org

.....Music Associate/Organist Marie.Meyers@fumcomaha.org

Staff:

1008 Dir. Children & Youth Ministries.....Bogart.Nomad@fumcomaha.org.

1001...Dir. Membership & Communication.. Candice.Nielsen@fumcomaha.org

1003 Finance ManagerNoni.Cambridge@fumcomaha.org

1010...Building Manager Steve.Nehrig@fumcomaha.org

1009...Dir. Rainbow Factory Preschool Jamie.Pressnall@fumcomaha.org

Our Faith in Action



Donation Box—In partnership with Clair Memorial United Methodist Church, we will be collecting canned goods for their food pantry. Please bring your canned goods, crackers, peanut butter, and other pantry stable items to the Donation Box in the Gathering Place.

First Church Announcements

Now Hiring—We are looking for a 3/4 time **Building Maintenance Staff**.

If you, or someone you know, is interested, please send a resume to Pastor Kent at Kent.Little@fumcomaha.org. Thank you!

Help take down the Advent Decorations— January 6th, 2019

We are in need of volunteers to assist putting away the Advent decorations. Meet in the Gathering Place after second service on Sunday, January 6, 2019 to get direction on the area of the church to undecorate. Please contact Candice Nielsen, Candice.Niel-sen@fumcomaha.org, if you can help with this Advent-urous project!

Beds Needed—Two weeks ago we learned of a family with an apartment but no furniture. Thanks to your generous donations and our willing movers, their apartment is mostly furnished. They still need 2 twin-size box springs and bed frames as well as 2 full-size mattresses, box springs, and bed frames. If you have any of these to donate, please call Natalie Masada at 402-619-1462 or Kay Peters at 402-507-6283.

Old Testament Bible Study— A small group meets on Mondays at Urban Abbey to study the Old Testament. We meet from 4:00-5:30 pm weekly. Our first meeting of 2019 will be January 7. We are led by Mark Kemling, a local Biblical scholar. Now would be a great time to join us to start the New Year. All levels of interest are welcome!

Meals for Youth Emergency Services (YES)—Join Feeding Ministries the 2nd Sunday after 2nd service in the main kitchen. We will prepare casseroles for YES. 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. **Sunday, January 13, 2019, 12:00 pm, Main Kitchen**

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
- ◆ Morning Yoga—Mondays, 9:30 am, Mead Chapel
- ◆ Tai Chi For Balance— Is on a winter break. We will return in 2019!
- ◆ Meditation—Wednesdays, 12:00 pm, Mead Chapel
- ◆ Earth Vigil—Third Wednesday monthly, 6:30 pm, Mead Chapel
- ◆ Zumba— Wednesdays, 6:30 pm, the Commons
- ◆ Evening Yoga—Thursdays, 6:15 pm, Mead Chapel
- ◆ Outdoor Labyrinth, Garden & Gazebo—24/7

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Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am-4:00 pm

Sunday, 8:30 am-12:00 pm; Closed Friday & Saturday



Faith Studies @First

Faith Studies for all Children and Youth will meet in the Sanctuary today, **Sunday December 23 at 9:35 am**. We will be practicing for our Christmas Eve portion of Worship. The children and youth will be involved in the 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service. Please bring youth to the Sanctuary and **pick up in their individual classrooms at 10:35 am**.

Please note there will be no Faith Studies for Children and Youth on Sunday December 30th. We will be giving our hard working volunteer teachers a break and use this time to thank them for their hard work this year. Please enjoy time with your family! **We will resume regular Sunday School on January 6, 2019.**

Children & Youth—Sunday morning, 9:35-10:35 am

Children Faith Studies/Hosanna Choir – We offer fun, friendly, and upbeat faith learning for the youngest members of our faith community. Children meet with their age group, as well as spend time singing together in Hosanna Choir. Please drop-off and pick-up your child in their individual classroom:

- 3-year-old/Pre-K, and Kindergarten **Room 205/206**
- 1st & 2nd grade **Room 207**
- 3rd, & 4th grade **Room 209**

Hosanna Choir will meet in **room 204 from 9:45-10:05 am**

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 has a monthly outing together! Tween Scene will start in their classroom and be picked up in the choir room (room 204).

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

Tween Scene Choir will meet in **room 204 from 10:05-10:35 am**

Youth Faith Studies – Our 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.

- Confirmation (7th-8th grade) **Room 108**
- Jr High & Sr High (8th-12th grade) - **Room 114**

Youth Choir will resume meeting in **Clark Rehearsal Hall (Music Room) from 12:00-12:30 pm in 2019!**

Adult Classes—Sunday morning, 9:35 –10:35 am

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 — Seekers who inquire in depth by reading and discussing a book. This week we will continue studying *The 4th Gospel* by Bishop Spong. **Adult Education Library**

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

Sunday, December 23, 2018

10:50 am



PRELUDE

"Love Came Down at Christmas" arr. David N. Johnson

WELCOME

Rev. Kent H. Little

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dr. Cynthia Lindenmeyer

In Jesus, God was given a beating heart and eyes of compassionate understanding. The abstraction of God became a loving vibrational force who brought hope, peace, and joy to help bring transformation to our world.

We awaken to the presence of Divine Love that truly changes our understanding of reality.

In Jesus, transformation of our whole being occurs where our heart becomes just as open and vulnerable as a newborn, allowing us to escape the confines of constrictive laws and let go of a need for armored wall of defenses.

We awaken to the presence of Divine Love that truly changes our understanding of reality.

In Jesus, whose love calls to us to listen, to engage, to be re-born to a reality where union of life offers a derivative holiness for humanity, may we be aware of Your overwhelming invitation to transformation. Let us be prepared for your future that reverses all our present tenses.

We awaken to the presence of Divine Love that truly changes our understanding of reality.

What can I give him, poor— as I am?
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;
 if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet
 what I can I give him: give _____ my heart.

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 hope, peace, joy, and love. May it illuminate the sacred in our waiting and open our eyes to the sacrament of our season.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" Red hymnal #220

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. Cynthia Lindenmeyer

Today is a gift from God.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

RESPONSE

"Star-Child" (vs. 5) Black hymnal #2095

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:46b-55

May we be mindful of the Spirit who speaks here and now...
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Kent H. Little

Mr. Rogers' Christmas: The Gifts of the Season—Love

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Love Came Down at Christmas" Red hymnal #242

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hymn of Prayer
"God Comes to Us"

God come to us on win-ter's night, in
 ba-by's breath, by fire - light, God comes to us _____
 on a star. _____ God comes to us a -
 midst our fears, un - spo-ken joys, un - end-ing tears, God
 comes to us _____ where we are. _____

Words and music: Dirk Damonte, © 1994 Excelsis Music.

Prayers of Concern

Hospitalized this week: Terri Mahoney, Denise Rogondino, Deborah Mabry-Strong, Emily Keasling
This we pray.

Hymn of Prayer

Prayers of Thanksgiving

This we pray.

Hymn of Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

Creator God 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 WE GIVE

An Offering of Music Chancel Choir
"Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day" John Gardner
Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance: sing O my love; this have I done for my true love. Then was I born of a woman true; of her I took fleshly substance; thus was I knit to human nature to call my true love to my dance: sing O my love; this have I done for my true love. In a manger laid and wrapped I was, so very poor - this was my chance, betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance: sing O my love; this have I done for my true love. Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance, my father's voice heard from above, to call my true love to my dance: sing O my love; this have I done for my true love.

***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**

"Joy to the World" Red hymnal #246

***SENDING FORTH**

POSTLUDE

"Organ Flourish on 'Joy to the World'" Michael G. Dell