

December 15—Children Rehearse Christmas Program
10:15-10:45 AM
December 15—Community Christmas Dinner;
11:00 AM—1:00 PM
December 18—Choir 5:45 PM; Praise Band 7:00 PM
December 19—Catherine’s Last Day in the office
Yes, her replacement has been hired.
More information to follow.

Prayer Chain—If you need prayer for any reason, **Carole Evans** at 507-334-1957 or e-mail her at caroleannjean@gmail.com.

Next Week

December 22—Children’s Christmas Program during worship
December 24—Christmas Eve Service; 4:30 Prelude of
Instruments & Solos; 5:00 PM Carols, Communion, &
Candlelight

Looking Ahead

December 29—Pastor Gordon Orde preaching

We would like to **thank everyone** who bought goodies at the annual Christian Piper & M & M Circle bake sale. We especially appreciated all who supported us with their baking skills. It was a success.

Parlor/Coffee Fellowship hosts: Community Christmas Dinner
Ushers: Jack & Jackie Luedke; Tom & Kim Bossmann
Greeters:
Lay Reader: Ken Harren
Acolyte: Miles Schiffer
Musicians: Doug Madow—Piano
Kelly Shimmin— Drums
Chris Schiffer — Bass
Kelly Landsverk — Choir Director
Tech: Grant Lammin
Nursery: Care available for ages 3 & under—Kim Luedke

Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church
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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*Third Sunday in Advent
Come, Lord Jesus, Come!*

Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 9 am

We Gather to Praise God

GATHERING and WELCOME

PRELUDE

Lord Jesus, in this unfolding season of Advent,
come among us and bless us,
that with a reverent sense of your presence,
our hearts and lives may be open to your Word
and the grace you offer at the Lord’s table,
that we may be ready for your coming in glory
and our lives may reflect the promised new creation. Amen.

*OPENING CHORUS *“Stay Awake! Be Ready!”*

*LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE

Led by Jeremy & Samantha Guerke Family
As we light this third candle,
our Advent journey continues to marche onward.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Wait patiently, yet expectantly.

The Lord is near!

Waters are breaking forth in the wilderness.

Streams are beginning to flow in the desert.

Open your eyes and look around.

Bear witness to what you see and hear.

The eyes of the blind are opening!

The ears of the deaf are unstopping!

The speechless are finding their voice to praise!

The lame are leaping for joy!

The sick are being healed!

The dead are being raised!

The poor are receiving good news!

The day of the Lord’s salvation is coming!



A new day is dawning!
God is transforming everything!
The time has come.
The time is now.

*HYMN OF PRAISE UMH #213
"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

*OPENING PRAYERS

To Proclaim God's Word

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10 Bible, OT, p. 629

ANTHEM *"Bethlehem Skies"* Choir/Praise Band

A TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

*GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 11:2-11 Bible, NT, p. 10

MESSAGE Pastor Greg Ciesluk
"Make the Blessings Known: Unabashed Joy"

To Respond in Faith

*HYMN *"Joy to the World"* UMH #246

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

*ADVENT DOXOLOGY Tune: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

To Be Sent Forth to Serve

*SONG *"We're Gonna Bring Joy to Our World"*

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

December Memory Verse

*But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you
good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:10-11*

Join us next Sunday, December 22 for our worship celebration on the Fourth Sunday in Advent. **The children will present "It's Christmas!" our annual Christmas Program.** The appointed scripture lessons for the Fourth Sunday in Advent are Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25. You are encouraged to read and meditate on these scriptures this week as an act of personal devotion. Such a practice promises to pay rich dividends in your spiritual journey and prepare your heart for a more fruitful worship experience.

Year End Giving: Has this been a year with blessings or breakthroughs? Can you say that being a part of the Fourth Avenue UMC family enriches your life? Do you feel a sense of pride at our church's accomplishments and its outreach into our community and world? Are you looking for ways to honor the birth of Jesus Christ? As Christmas draws near and the year 2019 comes to a close, consider an extra gift to the church. Your gift will strengthen our church's ministry now and put it on solid footing going into 2020.

Budget Information	December 8	Attendance 86
Total Deposited:		\$4,549.00
Designated Apportionments 2019:		\$ 600.00
Designated Ramp It Up		<u>\$ 35.00</u>
Available Funds:		\$3,914.00
Kathy DuChene, Treasurer		

From Security Team: Doors from the parking lot & 4th Avenue will be locked after Sunday Worship service starts. North doors stay open.