

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT- LOVE | DECEMBER 21, 2025

ADVENT HYMN VIDEO “The Thrill of Hope” Christy Nockels

OPENING WORDS: Isaiah 7: 10-16

*HYMN WELCOME “Away in a Manger” UMH 217
Pastor Scott Clawson

CALL TO WORSHIP
Beloved, God calls to us—like Joseph—through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit’s guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions.
We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.
Sometimes, angels surprise us (as they did Mary) with good news too fantastical to believe and yet too real—realer than real—to ignore.
We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.
For generations, God has sent signs of God’s coming kingdom in unexpected places—the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter.
We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.
Come! Let us worship God, who calls out to us, inviting us to faithfulness as we watch, wait, and work for the day when the whole world knows the abundant love and grace of Emmanuel, God-with-us.
Come! Let us worship as we listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & READING

*HYMN “What Child is This” UMH 219

LONGEST NIGHT PRAYERS & THE LORD’S PRAYER
PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ANTHEM
GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1: 18-25
The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God**

SERMON *HYMN “Here’s Your Sign” Pastor Scott Clawson
“O Come, All Ye Faithful” UMH 234

BENEDICTION
PRAYER OF DEDICATION & POSTLUDE

9:30 AM WORSHIP LEADERS
Acolyte: Liam Turner
Advent Reader(s): Wright Family
Lay Reader: Krista Romagnoli
Ushers: Melinda McCollum

11:00 AM WORSHIP LEADERS
Acolyte: Kasey Barboza
Advent Reader(s): Riley Family
Lay Reader: Carole Zimmerman
Ushers: Carole Zimmerman

NMUMC by the Numbers: December 14, 2025
9:30 AM: 73 11:00 AM: 61 Online: 53

Total Offering: \$31,326.87 *Regular Offering:* \$4,451.37*
Food Pantry: \$146.50 Holiday Flowers: \$29.00 Hope4Kids: \$200.00
New Ministry Center: \$26,200.00 Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$300.00
**Regular Offering Needed to Meet Weekly Budget: \$ 5,503.92*

Church Meetings
Monday, December 22: 9:30 AM Choir Practice – 6:30 PM – ED Building

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:00 PM CHILDREN’S CANDLELIGHT
6:00 & 8:00 PM TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT

FAIRVIEW CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00 PM WITH REV. PAUL LEATHERMAN
7:00 PM WITH REV’S JOHN & MARY CHANEY
9:00 PM WITH REV’S MARY & JOHN CHANEY
11:00 PM WITH REV. JEFF CHILDS

On December 28 Unity Service at 10:15 AM there will be just one worship service. There will be no Sunday School that day; however, the worship service will include a Children's Chat. There will be coffee and donuts starting at 9:30 AM. This service will give both congregations of both services a chance to see and fellowship with each other.

Church Office Closed for the Holidays: Office Hours resume on January 6

Coat Drive Collection: November 30- March 1st

Please help families in need by donating new, clean, and/or gently used winter coats, scarves, hats, gloves and boots. Contact Susan Stevens for more info: 240-277-2582.

Commitment Cards

The Generosity Team would like to thank everyone who has turned in their commitment card. Out of the 82 commitment cards distributed, we have received 22 pledges. If you have received a commitment card and have not yet turned it in, the team asks that you do so in order for the team to properly plan. If you have questions that you would like answered, please contact Pastor Scott. This effort is our first phase of the campaign. We will be reaching out to legacy families and corporations in the new year. If you have not yet received a card, they are located in the back of the sanctuary. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

The New Ministry Center Giving Tree

The Generosity Team sought an alternative to a thermometer for tracking commitment pledges as they came in. Therefore, they developed the concept of the giving tree. The painted top of the tree symbolizes the \$1 million in assets the campaign has already set aside. This includes the revenue from selling the parsonage/schoolhouse.

The leaves on the tree represent the dollar amount of each pledge. We follow the teaching of Jesus of the "widow's mite," and no names are displayed on the leaves. Every contribution matters. The New Ministry Center will have a place to honor those who contribute or those they want to memorialize.

The two branch stumps represent the two other attempts to add more space to the sanctuary and ED building, which did not come to fruition at those times.

As funds are pledged, the bark of the tree will grow. When a milestone has been reached, we will "tie a yellow ribbon round the old oak tree."

CAMPAIGN PLEDGES AS OF 12/14/2025 ARE \$705,360



Pastor Scott's Contact Information: Pastorscott62@gmail.com
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ADVENT SEASON

LOVE

December 21, 2025

————— WELCOME TO —————
NEW MARKET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH