

*\*Hearing enhancement devices are available in the sanctuary in the lobby.  
\*Walkers and canes are also available in the Sanctuary Lobby.*

**Welcome/Announcements**

**Prelude**

*It Came Upon A Midnight Clear  
arr. David Huntsinger*

**Opening Hymn**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
UMH 230

**Advent Wreath Lighting**

**Reader:** Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary’s womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God’s love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

**All: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world’s judgment.**

**Reader:** We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

**Children’s Moment**

**Morning Prayer**

*We will conclude this prayer by reciting “The Lord’s Prayer.” If you are unfamiliar with this prayer, you are invited to follow along up on the screens.*

**First scripture**

Isaiah 7:10-16

**Offertory Prayer**

**Offertory**

*Away in a Manger*  
arr. Cynthia Dobrinski  
*Do You Hear What I Hear?*  
arr. Doug Wagner, Jubilate Bell Choir

**Doxology (please stand as you are comfortable)**  
UMH 95

**Final Scripture Reading**

Matthew 1:18-25

**Message**

*Signs and Faithfulness*  
Rev. Matt Bridges

**Closing Hymn (please stand as you are comfortable)**  
*Away In A Manger*  
UMH 217

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
arr. Frank Breazeale

**Reflection Questions**

- How would you have reacted if you were in Joseph’s shoes?
- Have you ever broken “obedience” to show mercy toward someone else? If not, would you consider it? Why yes, or why not?

**In the Life of St. John’s**

**Outcome of Church Conference held  
Wednesday, Dec. 10th**

Last week, by a Called Church Conference vote, it was unanimously agreed to rent space to Proud Moments ABA. We have signed a seven and a half year lease agreement that will earn a secondary revenue stream of \$1,551,603.05 over the term of the lease. In the coming months, Proud Moments will be remodeling their leased area downstairs, will be moving in, and begin to operate. There is not a specific opening date as of yet. Thank you to everyone who came and voted.

**Christmas Caroling After Worship and Fellowship  
Time Today In the Choir Room**

You are invited to join the Nephesh class to sing Christmas carols after fellowship time on Sunday, December 21st. They are planning on being in the Choir Room.

**Thank You For “Sharing the Star” Suppers!**

Thank you so much for all those who came together to prepare and organize the Wednesday night suppers these last weeks. We are grateful how you worked so hard to provide time and space for folks to break bread together. The food was great! Thank you all for coming to the suppers and sharing with each other. They were great times for catching up together and supporting each other.

*This Week In The Life of St. John's*

**Mon. Dec. 22, 2025**

12:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor  
6:00 pm Pickleball, Fellowship Hall

**Tues. Dec. 23, 2025**

8:00 am-12:30 pm Bag N' Hand Food Pantry (volunteer times)  
12:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor  
4:00 pm-6:30pm Bag N' Hand Food Pantry (volunteer times)  
6:00 pm Alcoholics' Anonymous, Men and Women Group, Parlor  
6:00 pm Adult Children of Alcoholics, Bell Room  
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous, Fellowship Hall

**Wed. Dec. 24, 2025**

12:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Sanctuary  
12:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor  
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Sanctuary

**Thurs. Dec 25, 2025**

Church offices Closed, Merry Christmas!

**Fri. Dec. 26, 2025**

Church offices Closed

**Sat. Dec. 27, 2025**

**Sun. Dec. 28, 2025**

9:30 am Morning Worship:  
10:30 am Morning Fellowship Time, Chapel  
10:45ish am Sunday School  
2:00 pm Scout Troop 53 Meeting, Fellowship Hall

**December 21, 2025**

***Advent***

***Toda La Tierra  
Espera (All The  
Earth Awaits):  
Week 4***

**SIGNS AND FAITHFULNESS**



***Advent & Christmas Events With St. John's***

**Sunday, December 14:**

9:30am Worship: Christmas Cantata Sunday

**Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24:**

12:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
4:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Sunday, December 28:**

9:30am Worship: Fun & Festive Sweater and Pajama Day!  
\*Brunch to Follow