

## *Advent and Christmas Events*

Wednesday, December 14, 6:30 pm - Children's Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, December 21, 4:00 pm - Advent Service of Peace and Healing

Sunday, December 25, 9:30 am Online Worship only no in person worship

### *Christmas Eve Services*

*3:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship*

*4:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship (nursery available) livestreamed*

*10:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship*

No Super Wednesday December 21, 28 and January 4

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Rev. Rachel McIver Morey  
Dave Miller, Piano

# *Hanging of the Greens*

Wednesday, November 30, 2022  
6:30 pm

Northfield United Methodist Church  
1401 S. Maple St.,  
Northfield, MN 55057  
507-645-5689  
[www.northfieldumc.org](http://www.northfieldumc.org)

# *Hanging of the Greens*

*November 30, 2022 - 6:30 pm*

Introduction of the Season and Service

**+Hymn** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

UMH #234, vs 1

## **The Sanctuary Evergreens**

Evergreen boughs, sometimes strung along banisters or door frames, sometimes wrapped in circles to form wreaths, sometimes bunched together in swags and hung: in northern Europe they have long served as symbols of that which lasts, in season and out.

**Evergreen trees are always intact, always lush, always scented, always waiting for new growth to join their branches in the spring.**

No matter what shape, wreath, swag, sprig or tree -all different, and all the same: testaments to the unending love of God, and the life abundant we share through Jesus Christ.

Winter - in our world, in our lives - is real, and takes its toll. Whatever season it was in Bethlehem that night, we know the love of God does not flee from the cold.

**The life and love of God in Jesus Christ has known many winters, and grace persists like the needles of a pine tree.**

## **Isaiah 11:1-2**

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

**Hymn** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

UMH #230, vs 1

## **The Advent Colors**

Dark blue is the color of Advent, a color that symbolizes hope: think of the night sky before the dawn breaks.

**In the darkness of this color we wait and watch for the light of Christ.**

The deep blue of the night sky also is scattered with stars, by which humans have navigated since before time began.

**The star of Bethlehem still calls the wise to kneel by the manger.**

## **Isaiah 25:6-8**

6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

7 And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

8 he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.

**Hymn** *There's a Song in the Air*

UMH #249, vs 1

## **The Advent Wreath**

The Advent wreath, which is often decorated with a circle of evergreen boughs, reminds us of God's never ending and never failing love for us. It is a tradition begun in Scandinavian homes, eventually baptized for use in the church.

**The circle never ends, and the light only grows.**

While sometimes colors have been assigned with particular virtues or values, ultimately the symbol is about the accumulation of light against the darkening season.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.**

## **Isaiah 9:2, 6**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

## **Advent Candle is Lit**

**Hymn** *Love Came Down at Christmas*

UMH #242, vs 1 and 3

**Love comes down at Christmas**

**Love all lovely, love divine**

**Love is born and Christmas –  
star and angels give the sign!**

**Love shall be our token**

**Love be yours and love be mine**

**Love to God and neighbor**

**Love for plea and gift and sign!**

The house is prepared - we welcome the season!  
(Blessing of the Households)