

Advent and Christmas Events

December 13 – 6:30 pm, Children’s Christmas Pageant
December 20 – 4:00 pm, Advent Service of Peace and Healing,
St. Peter’s Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve Services

December 24 – 9:30 am, Christmas Eve Communion Service
December 24 – 4:30 pm, Christmas Eve Worship (nursery available)
service will be livestreamed
December 24 – 10:00 pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

No Super Wednesday December 20, 27, and January 3

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Rev. Rachel McIver Morey
Rev. Jerad Morey
Sara Newberg, Piano

Hangings of the Greens

Wednesday, November 29, 2023
6:30 pm

Northfield United Methodist Church
1401 S. Maple St.,
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-5689
www.northfieldumc.org

Hangings of the Greens

November 29, 2023 - 6:30 pm

Introduction of the Season and Service

Prayer

+Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

UMH #234, vs 1 & 3

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 & 3

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 & 3

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!

Prayer

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