Advent Schedule

December 20
Project Noel
5 pm, Fellowship Hall

Pizza Dinner
6 pm, Fellowship Hall

Family Movie
6:30 pm, Gym

December 21
Longest Night Worship
6 pm, Sanctuary

December 23
Christmas Adam
6 pm, Gym

December 24
Combined worship, 11 am
Family worship, 4 pm
Candlelight worship, 6 pm

PRAYER list

Arthur Cummings
Mary Cummings
Libby Davenport
HJ Fleming
Mary Hall
Cathy Hanks
Art Hartzog
David Holder
Toni Holder
Jerry Reitzel
Maxine Reynolds
Jake Sawyer

Church Office Hours
Monday – Thursday: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Friday: 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Brad Gray
Executive Pastor

Dale Fischer
Director of Music

Megan Gray
Pastor of Discipleship & Belonging

Jana Mathis
Director of Children's Ministries

Dr. Kristine Lee
Organist

Chad Deetz
Youth Minister

Jennifer Bartless
Children's Ministry Assistant

BETHEL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Invite. Grow. Send.

To all who are weary and need rest; To all who are burdened and need relief; To all who are lonely and need friends; To all who are looking for something that only God can provide; To all who sin and need a Savior; To whosoever will come, Bethel UMC, the House of God, opens her doors, and in the name of Jesus Christ says, "Welcome!"

December 17, 2023 **3rd Sunday of Advent**

11:00 AM Worship Service

Prelude *"Reflection on an Ancient Plainsong"* Michael Ryan

Trinity Chimes

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Have you noticed? Are you paying attention? God is doing a new thing.
We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.
You know the captives? God is bringing freedom. You know the brokenhearted? God is bringing healing.
We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.
Beloved, listen. God is calling *you*. To be freed and to free your neighbors. To be healed and to heal your community. To testify to the Light among us.
We watch and wait in the fierce joy of the coming Messiah.
So, let us join our voices and our hearts as we proclaim the story of the one whose coming we anticipate and yet is already as close as our own breath.
We come to watch, to wait, and to worship in the fierce joy of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

*Hymn *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"* UMH 213

Advent Candle Lighting George & Nancy Barkman

Response

We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

Offering

Offertory *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"* Lucy Ann Warriner

*Doxology *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"* UMH 95

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.
Response: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.

Christmas Cantata

*Hymn *"Let There Be Peace on Earth"* (2x) UMH 431

*Benediction

*Postlude *"Cantique de Noel"* arr. Robert J. Hughes

**Please stand if able*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A nursery is available on the First Floor for infants and children under 3 years.

Ushers: Blair Mathis, Mike Woodrum, Chris Moore & Andy Cannon

Altar Flowers: The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God and in memory of William and Rita Pinkerton by Marilyn Culverhouse.

The Nativity display at our prayer altar was made and donated by Lois Caughman (probably in the early '60's). It has been kept in our History Room for several years. We are pleased to have it add to the beauty of our sanctuary as we worship during Advent.