

Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church

Our Vision Statement

*To be a joyful, welcoming community
igniting hearts and minds for God's work.*

a Reconciling Congregation

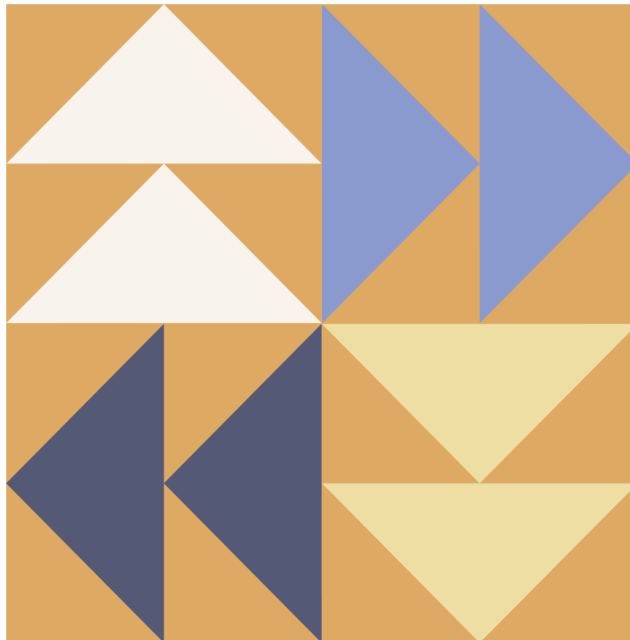
January 5, 2024

Epiphany

10:30am

"The Road isn't Straight" by Lauren Wright Pittman

"The triangles in this quilt square point in multiple directions. Much like the magi's journey, the path that lies ahead isn't always clear or straight. Thankfully, we have the guidance of the Spirit to guide our way." (A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)



PRELUDE

The Old Year is Now Gone

J.S. Bach

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

William Henry Monk

*PRAYER OF INVITATION

How did you get here?

Left side of the room: I walked, eyes looking up, following the star.

Right side of the room: I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.

Left side of the room: I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.

Right side of the room: I ambled like a river, caught up in God's flow.

I crawled, kissing the earth below me.

Tell me again. How did you get here?

I am here by God's grace and love's pull.

Welcome home. This is God's house. There is room for you here.

Let us worship our gracious God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us greet each other in the name of the Risen Christ. Peace be with you.

And also with you.

*HYMN

"We Three Kings"

UMH No. 254

POETRY READING ††

Field Notes

Read by Janelle Tangonan Anderson

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are invited to come forward as parents are comfortable.

Please note that children who come forward may be visible on the livestream.

COLLECTION AND BLESSING OF FIRST FRUITS

*HYMN

"What Child is This"

UMH No. 219

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION ††

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12, Isaiah 43:16-21

SERMON

The Road Isn't Straight

Rev. Shawna Horn

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new beginnings, We admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply because others have been there before. Sometimes this is holy and humble, but there are days when a new path needs to be tread. On those new-beginning days, O God, give us the courage to follow your star. Give us the courage to go home by another way. Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. For when you are doing a new thing, we want to have the courage to follow. With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Dear travelers, No matter the roads you've taken, the steps you've made, or the paths you've traveled, there is nowhere you could go that would land you outside of God's love.

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

Regardless of the path we travel, of how lost we may get, or the twists and turns along the way, we do not walk alone. We are loved. We are forgiven. We have every chance to begin again. Thanks be to God for a love like that!

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION ANTHEM “Let Us Break Bread Together” UMW No. 618
Paul Howe, Soloist

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Coventry Carol Robert Croo
Paul Howe, Soloist

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE In the Bleak Midwinter UMH No. 221—vs 4
What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

*HYMN “One Bread, One Body” UMH No. 620

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER *We now offer petitions of joy and concern from prayer cards.*

Lord in your mercy... ***hear our prayer.***

In gratitude let us pray to the Lord... ***hear our prayer.***

Prayers lifted during this time are shared with our Prayer Chain, a group of individuals who have covenanted to being in prayer with and for our congregation.

RESPONSE TO WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMH No. 211—vs 1
Adult Choir

POSTLUDE Dialogue François Couperin

GO IN PEACE

**Congregation, please rise in spirit, and stand as you are comfortable.*
†† Poetry and Prayers by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Here's What's Happening at Fairmount Avenue

Y.A.M. (Young Adult) Meal (free) and Spiritual Musings and Activity— Tonight, from 5:30-6:15. *See Insert for more info.*

All Ages Together Faith Formation- Today, January 5 from 9-10 AM in the Wesley Room. For 5 years old through Adult! Join us for a morning song, story, discussion, and activities to end our Advent series, "Words for the Beginning," with the Epiphany theme: "The Road *Isn't* Straight." *We will gather and celebrate the ways God is with us—always.*

Sunday Morning Programming: January 5

9:00am— All Ages Together Faith Formation

9:30am & 11:00am— Blood Pressure Checks

10:00am— Fellowship Time (Coffee Hour)

10:30am— Worship

Wednesday Night Programming: December 8

5:30pm— Wednesday supper

6:00pm— Children's handbell rehearsal

6:30pm— T.G.I.W. programming

6:30pm— Heritage Ringers rehearsal

LAITY ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP:

Liturgist: Steve Wertz

Ushers: Matt Anderson, Nita and Brian Hanson

Nursery: Ashton Pappas and Gus Manderscheid

Fellowship Servers: Adam & Eileen Clift, Ron & Terri Ausen

Fellowship Servers Next Week: Muriel Olson, Tracy Smith

If you have swapped serving dates, please inform the church office so that service recognition is accurate.

Thank you!

This Week's Happy Birthdays go to:

5 Terri Ausen
Jacob Hugart
Jacqueline Fisk
Carolyn Kelly
Liam M.

6 Riley Lindstrom

9 Sik-Toh Ting

10 James Eaton
Henry D.

11 Eileen Clift

12 Audrey S.

FAIRMOUNT AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MINISTERS: The Congregation

Pas-
tor

Music/Choir Director and Organist

Children's Ministries Director

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Rev. Shawna Horn

Michael Ferguson

Ashton Pappas

Cindy Radtke

Heritage Ringers

Parish Nurse

Custodial Ministries

Administrator/Communications

Mindy Way-Johnson

Muriel Olson

Kirsten Herkenhoff

Madeline Austin

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