

Third Sunday of Advent
Welcome to Grace United Methodist Church
We are glad you are here!

9:30 A.M. Worship

10:45 A.M. Sunday School

December 13, 2009

The Gathering

Gathering music, fellowship, sharing with family and friends, announcements.

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Paul & Cheryl Galligos

UMH 211 (vs. 3 without refrain)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' (Luke 1:26-33)

Despite all of the questions Mary must have had she trusted and rejoiced in the angel's message, singing praises to God for all his works.

God, your hope and love have filled our days and revitalized our spirits. As we light the third candle of Advent, a candle of Joy, help us turn our worries into praises. Be present with us as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Let this candle of Advent Joy shine in our hearts all week to remind us to pray and place Christ at the center this season.

UMH 211 (refrain)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Opening Prayer (Zephaniah 3, Isaiah 12)

Tina Arnold

With laughing hearts and joyous hope, we come to you, O God. With tired souls and withered dreams, we come to you, O God. In our joy and in our sorrow, we turn to you, O God. Renew us with your love. Gather us into your strong embrace, that we may know your presence and rejoice in your promised coming. With hopeful expectation, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn UMH 203:**

Hail to the Lords Anointed

Children's Moment

Anthem

Somebody Built A Manger

Chancel Choir

Prayer of Confession (Zephaniah 3, Luke 3, Advent)

Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly into our lives and into our hearts. Renew us with your love. Help us bear fruit worthy of repentance. Where there is hatred, heal us with your love. Where there is discord, calm us with your peace. Where there is sin, cover us with your grace. Where there is despair, strengthen us with your hope. Baptize us with the fire of your Holy Spirit, that we may be refined and cleansed of our sins. Gather us into your midst, that we may be your people. Amen and Amen.

Words of Assurance (Zephaniah 3, Philippians 4)

Do not fear, dear children of God, for God is in our midst. Christ has taken away all judgments against us, and we are forgiven and reconciled to God. Rejoice! Again, I say, rejoice! **Amen!**

Scripture Lesson

The Word
Luke 3:7-18

Andrew Holtschlag, Reader

Witness to the Word

Pastor Mike Fender

Prayers of the People

Prayer Hymn: UMH 349

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Offering and Offertory

Mr. Andrew Salyer

Doxology

Offertory Prayer

Benediction

***Choral Benediction: UMH 399**

Take My Life And Let It Be

Postlude

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of Thanksgiving: for all those that helped with the Women's Christmas brunch.
Prayers for our Active Duty Military Personnel: Tom Alexander and Jamie Perry.
Prayers For Upcoming Events and Our Community: The Salvation Army's Christmas Kettle Drive and Blue Christmas.
Prayers for: Our Home Bound and Nursing Home Members; All Congregations in Jacksonville; Our Bishop; Our District Superintendent; Our Pastor; Our Church; Its Ministry; and Its Stewardship.

MISSION EMPHASIS

In December, we are looking for donations for Jacksonville Area Food Center. Because of the economy, the Food Center is serving more first-time families. It is reported that their food provisions are very low, so if you can, please contribute anything you are able. They need canned foods such as vegetables, fruits, soups, and canned meats as well as packaged "dinners" and "Helpers." Thank you in advance.

The Advent letter should have been received by now. If you didn't receive a letter, please notify the office. You will note that there are four recipients this year. They are: Volunteer Health Clinic, Crisis Center, Jacksonville Area Food Center, and Woodhaven Hospice. Your donation can be put in the offering plate on Sunday morning or sent or delivered to the Church office anytime during Advent, before Christmas Eve.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH YOUTH CANDY AND BAKE SALE

The Junior High Youth Group is selling goodies in the Parlor this morning. You can also pick-up bakery goods ordered from our Senior High today.

YOUNG DISCIPLES

The Young Disciples Group will be meeting this afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30 for some Christmas fun.

2010 FLOWER CHART

The 2010 Flower Chart has been put up on the bulletin board across from the office. If you would like to purchase Altar flowers, please sign up and fill out the form which can also be found on the bulletin board. The form can be turned into the office along with the payment of \$30.00.

2010 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you would like to have offering envelopes for the New Year, they are available for you to pick-up at the Welcome Center in the parlor.

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

You will want to come to the December Wednesday afternoon program on December 16th at 1:00 pm. A well-known Jacksonville entertainer, Robert Sampson, will be here to share his talents with us with Christmas carols and songs. Please put the date on your calendar because it promises to be an afternoon of joy and fun. Remember we have Worship and Food & Fellowship every Wednesday, starting at 11:30 am.

BLUE CHRISTMAS, A SERVICE OF HOPE

We are planning a special service for those who find this season difficult. We want to make it a service of hope and fond memories. Please come and invite friends from the Jacksonville community. It is a season to give of ourselves to help those around us.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

The Junior and Senior High Youth Group will be caroling next Sunday from 4:00 until 7:00 and would like to invite the members and friends of Grace to join them for a fun filled evening.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

December 23 – Close at 4:30

December 24 – Closed

The church office will also be closed the week between Christmas and New Years. Correspondence, Advent offerings, payment of pledges and Grace Notes articles can be put in the Christmas Eve or December 27th offering plate or dropped by the office anytime before Christmas. The office will open again on January 4, 2010.

WINTER LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS 2010

Leadership training for all United Methodists in the LaMoine River District will be Sunday, January 24 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Winchester UMC in Winchester, IL. A pamphlet outlining the speakers and their subjects and the registration form can be found in the church office.

H1N1 VACCINE CLINIC

The Morgan County Health Department will be offering a free H1N1 vaccine clinic at the old Wal-mart building (1205 W. Morton Ave.) on Tuesday, December 15th from 10:00 am till 6:00 pm. This clinic is for anyone 6 month of age and older wishing to obtain the H1N1 vaccination. If you have any questions, please contact the Morgan County Health Department at 217-245-5111.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Food Bank Sunday

9:00 a.m. Fellowship - Parlor

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship – Deaf Faith Community

1:00 p.m. Deaf Youth Ministry

1:30 p.m. Young Disciples

4:00 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Shopping

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:00 p.m. Deaf Bible Study

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

11:30 a.m. Worship

12:00 p.m. Food & Fellowship

1:00 p.m. Older Adult Program – Robert Sampson

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study