



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

**WE GATHER**

**\*Gathering Music:** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* 196

**Call to Worship**

In a world that is lonely, **we will save a seat for you.**  
In a world that is anxious, **we will light candles against the gloom.**  
In a world that is weary, **we will sing songs of joy and truth.**  
I am not alone. **We are not alone.**  
For here in this place, God is weaving us together.  
**Light the candles! Sing with joy! We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath: HOPE**

**\*Opening Prayer**

**In this dark time of year, God, we long for your coming. When darkness falls upon the world, we long for your peace. For healing, we wait. For justice, we hope. Strengthen our hearts, that we may be steadfast in faith, constant in love, and radiant with hope even when times are dark. In the name of Christ, who is coming, and who is always with us, we pray. Amen.** Steven Garnaas-Holmes

**\*Hymn of Praise:** *This is a Day of New Beginnings* (vv. 1, 2, 5) 383

**THE WORD**

**Scripture:** Ruth 1: Ecclesiastes 4.9-12

\*Please stand in body or spirit.

**Message:** *We Can't Go Alone*

**Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance** (see insert)

**AROUND CHRIST'S TABLE**

**Invitation**

**Our Offerings**

**\*Doxology** (tune: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*)

**\*The Great Thanksgiving** (see insert)

**The Lord's Prayer** 895

**Sharing the Bread & Cup**

**Affirmation of Faith** (see insert)

**WE ARE SENT**

**\*Benediction**

*As you leave this place,  
may you have the wisdom to lean on one other.  
May you have the courage to hold onto hope,  
the compassion to do the good that is yours to do,  
and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.  
For in a world full of dead ends,  
Advent invites us to begin again.  
So start here.  
Start now.  
Start with love and begin again.  
In the name of Christ,  
our new beginning,  
go in peace.*

**\*Sending Hymn:** *People, Look East* (vv. 1-3) 202

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Advent Begins TODAY!

Pick up a special Advent Devotional for your household today – readings for each week. If you have an Advent Wreath, consider using the devotional when you light the wreath each week. (Tip: To follow our worship series, read week 2 for Dec 1 & week 1 for Dec 8.)

### Adopt-a-Family Christmas Gifts – Bring Dec 8

Choose a tag from the Adopt-a-Family Christmas Tree and get some gifts for area families this holiday. Bring UNWRAPPED items by Dec 8 (donate wrapping paper if you like). Record the tag you choose on the clipboard & return your tag with your gift. Thank you!

**Holiday Concerts - The Many Voices Choir** will present *The Work of Christmas*, directed by Timothy Schumacher, December 1, 3:30 pm in Bancroft, December 6, 7:30 pm in Spirit Lake, December 7, 1:30 pm in Estherville. (See bulletin board for details.)  
Admission – Free Will Offering

### Coming Up

- ◆ **Mon, Dec 2:** Card Club, 12:30 pm; Horizons, 1 pm
- ◆ **Tues, Dec 3:** Card Club 12:30 pm; Bible Study, 1:30 pm
- ◆ **Wed, Dec 4:** Wednesday Night GiG, 5:30 pm – supper & some Christmas decorating
- ◆ **Thurs, Dec 5:** Horizons, 1 pm; Just 4 Kix, 4 pm; AA, 7:30 pm

Worship Stewards	Today	Next Week
Acolytes	Jaden Ward	Ally Rouse
Liturgist	Danielle Ditch	Marie Stewart
AV	Anderson family	Hudson family
Livestream	Jodi Ward	Randy Becker
Counters/Ushers	Brian G, Dean VM	Shayne K, Tony S
Communion	Ana S, Kathy H	
Advent Wreath	Pastor & Randy	Stewart family

Unless otherwise indicated, all liturgies are adapted from *Words for the Beginning Advent Series* by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.



### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

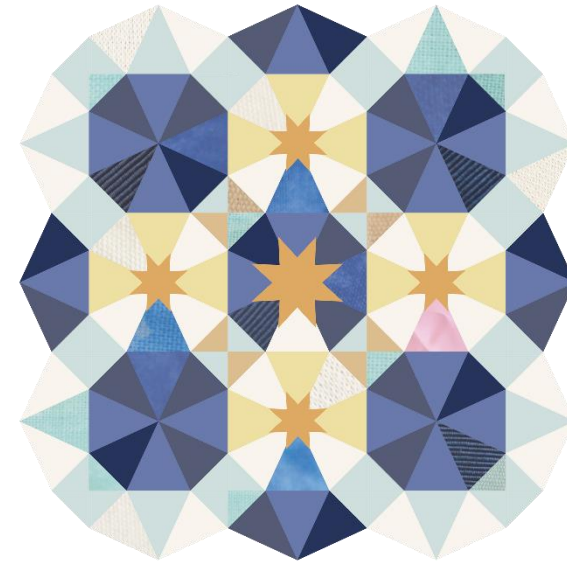
801 Broadway St, P.O. Box 99, Emmetsburg, IA 50536

712.852.2154, emmetsburg-first-umc@iaumc.net

OFFICE HOURS: M-TH: 9 am – 12:30 pm

Pastor Kolleen Queener: kolleen.queener@iaumc.net, 712.541.3266

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**WORDS**  
FOR THE **BEGINNING**  
— WE CAN'T GO ALONE —

December 1, 2024

Worship, 10:00 am