

**FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

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**December 19, 2021**

**WE ARE CALLED TO BE A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY  
SHARING THE LOVE OF GOD**

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**Welcome & Announcements (Updates – Not in bulletin)**

**Worship Leader:** Dale Miller

**Prelude:** “Joy to the World” by Handel, arranged by Ashford

**Call to Worship:**

L: This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, a time to rejoice in the wondrous things that God is doing.

**P: Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world.**

L: The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presence, but for the awareness of God’s loving gift to us--the gift of the Christ child.

**P: Help slow us down, Lord, that we may realize that your gift of love is at the center of our lives and our celebrations.**

L: Thanks be to God who again reminds us of God’s eternal love.

**P: Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive your blessed gift.  
AMEN.**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles:** Dave & Doris Marks

**Carol:** “O Come All Ye Faithful

**Invocation**

Lord of all life and all seasons, help us open our hearts to hear the words of promise and love that you send to us. Like Joseph, may we trust in your abiding love and power. Prepare us to

receive your gift of grace and peace. In Jesus’ Name, we pray.  
AMEN.

**Children’s Story:** Sommar Damiter

(Following the story, children are invited to attend Children’s Church)

**Sharing and Prayer**

**A Service Of Lessons And Carols**

Lesson 1:

The prophets of Israel keep hope alive in the hearts of the Jewish people. A Messiah will come in the fullness of God’s time.

Isaiah 9:1-7, Micah 5:2

Carol

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Lesson 2:

Just as promised in the fullness of time God’s promised is fulfilled, Jesus, the Messiah, is born in Bethlehem of Judea.

Luke 2:1-7

Carol

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Lesson 3:

A choir of angels announce the Good news to Startled shepherds near Bethlehem. This is a symbol that the Messiah comes for all.

Luke 2:8-20

Carol

Angels We Have Heard On High

Lesson 4:

Eastern astrologers are attracted to a new bright star in the eastern sky, they seek the new King which the star announces.

Matthew 2:1-12

**Choir Anthem:** “Come Follow That Star” by Price and Besig

## Lesson 5:

And so the event that would change the world unfolds in an obscure Judea village – and all who hear the story and believe

can never be the same! Christ, the Messiah, God's anointed One, our Savior, is born!

Hebrews 1:1-14

Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

## Lesson 6:

And so we remember, how on that silent night nearly 2000 years ago, a baby was born, everything changed, the Light of the World has come! WE can never be the same!

John 1:1-5, 9-12

Carol

Joy To The World

## **Benediction:**

**Place your trust in God, for God is with you. Listen carefully for God's loving whisper in this time--the words will give you healing and hope. Go in peace and may God's peace always be with you. AMEN.**

**\*Postlude**

**\*Stand as you are able**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Update from the Sign Committee:** The Sign Committee has received 3 quotes for update/replacement of the church sign at the bottom of the hill to an electronic sign. The quotes range from \$21,560 to \$86,000. The committee is interested in following up with the company that has given us the quote of \$21,560. This expenditure would require holding a Congregational Business meeting to discuss and vote to move forward. This meeting would take place on a Sunday morning right after the worship service.

There have been some memorial funds given to help pay for this expenditure. If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile project, monies can be put in the collection plate in an envelope marked COB Sign Update. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Lebo, Mark Ditmer or Sue Scott.

**Lois Sollenberger** thanks everyone for their prayers, cards and meals. They have meant so much to her during her recovery.

**All women of the church should collect a little Christmas present from Gloria Ramirez**, chair of Women's Fellowship, as you leave today. If you have grandchildren that might enjoy a little paper craft and Christmas puzzles, take an extra.

We are having **choir rehearsals** again on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Please feel free to join us!

Men's weekly online Bible study is open to all. Contact Mike Strickler for link.

There is a children's Christmas party today during the usual meeting time. There will be short classes first and then a party in the fellowship hall with games, a craft, and refreshments. If there are any questions, please see Francine Moody.

Nurture Commission is raising money for NYC through Rada Cutlery sales. See flyer on bulletin board for purchasing items.

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### **TODAY**

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship Service  
Children's Christmas Party

### **MONDAY, December 20, 2021**

7:30-8:30 pm Men's Online Bible Study

### **FRIDAY, December 24, 2021**

Christmas Eve, office closed, 7:00 pm Service

### **SUNDAY, December 26, 2021**

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship Service