

**FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

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Co-Pastors: Jim and Marla Abe Ministers: Every follower of Jesus

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December 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

We Are Called To Be

**A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SHARING THE LOVE OF  
GOD**

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**+Stand as you are able**

**Thought:** First we might ask What is Christmas? Then we consider Where is Christmas?

Prelude

**Lighting the Second Advent Candle**

**Response: Gloria** Hymnal No 204

**+Call to Celebration**

One: How wonderful to have this time to be here.

**ALL: Yes! Sometimes jobs or other responsibilities require our time.**

One: Imagine that all time is God's time...lent to us for a few moments.

**ALL: More than imagining, we might seek to use God's time wisely.**

One: For such a time as this we are God's people!

**ALL: For such a time as this God is with us.**

**+Opening Hymn:** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus  
No. 178

**Opening Prayer**

**Sharing of Tithes and Offerings**

"So the Jews adopted the custom of Purim\*, what they had begun to do, as Mordecai had written to them."

Esther 9:23

Sometimes customs that meant much at their beginning just become mere rituals to continue without any real meaning within.

Sometimes our offerings can become the same way. We share more as a duty than as a genuine response to the love of the Lord first to, then through us.

Let us once again 'adopt the custom' of graciousness not only as an action, but also as an attitude of living.

Offertory

**+Offertory Response:** No. 212

Chorus O Come, Let Us Adore Him

Offertory Prayer

**+Hymn:** Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee No. 182

**Choir:** Prepare

Junior Church Dismissed

**Scripture:** Esther 4:1-17 Pg. 446

**Message:** "For Such a Time as This"

**Community Sharing**

Announcements

Concerns and Joys

Morning Prayer

**Challenge**

One: Hark! The glad sound! The Savior comes!

**ALL: Then we better be prepared to go!**

One: Let every heart prepare a throne!

**ALL: Even our lives can enthrone Him!**

One: On Him the Spirit largely poured...

**ALL: On us His presence largely lived!**

One: Wisdom and might and zeal and love...

**ALL: Sounds like Christmas!**

**+Hymn of Commitment:** Hark! The Glad Sound! No. 184

**Postlude**

**+Stand as you are able**

**\*Purim:** The annual festival of joy instituted to commemorate the deliverance of the Jews in Persia from the evil of Haman. The "Prime Minister" of King Ahasuerus, Haman, threw lots (Pur) to determine when to eliminate all the Jews from the king's land.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Women's Fellowship Banquet has been planned for Friday, December 14th at 5pm. A sign-up sheet is on the hall bulletin board. I need to see the list filled in by this Sunday, to plan for the amount of food needed. Remember to bring a mini loaf of your favorite bread. Also, for the conversation, bring something you have saved and treasured for your lifetime. Secret Sisters will meet directly after the Deacon's Christmas Banquet in the Sonbeam's Sunday School Classroom on December 16th.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Unless there are 20 names on the list for this banquet, this dinner WILL be cancelled. Any questions, see Gloria.

Dove Festival - Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am -4:00 pm at First United Church of Christ. This festival is being presented by Amani. Amani's mission is to bring people from various cultures together and provide a forum for enjoying, sharing and learning more about each other's unique background, and celebrating peace among all cultures. There will be a contest for favorite dove designs - doves are synonymous with peace, unity and love. There will be a silent auction to raise funds for Domestic Violence. Dove Fest will feature doves, music, food and activities for kids of all ages. There is a flyer on the bulletin board.

The Women's Fellowship is again sponsoring a family from the Salvation Army who is in need of Christmas gifts. This year it is a family of three children with a single mother. Please glance at the list of needed items located on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Write your name next to the gift(s) you would like to purchase. Gifts should be wrapped and labeled and returned to the church by December 16th. Thank you for helping a less fortunate family to have a bright Christmas.

The church board will not be meeting in December. The next board meeting will be January 15, 2019, at 7 pm.

Christmas Dinner next Sunday....there will be lots of good food shared. This church is full of great cooks. You may sit with your deacon cluster or with friends, not leaving out visitors.

Christmas Caroling at 6:30 on Dec. 23. Please bring cookies to share. Nurture will provide hot chocolate!

Christmas Eve: We will be celebrating Christmas Around the World, choosing four countries, England, Switzerland, Central America and Nigeria. After the worship service, we will be offering small bites of the Christmas foods of those countries...Plan to linger a bit and enjoy!

We are completely out of \$10 Giant gift cards. Any purchases would be helpful!

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### TODAY

9:00 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Worship Service

### MONDAY, December 10

1:00 pm Witness Commission

### TUESDAY, December 11

9:00 am Quilting  
6:00 pm SOPA Nominating Committee  
7:00 pm Stewards

### WEDNESDAY, December 12

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, December 13

6:30 pm District Executive Com.

### FRIDAY, December 14

5:00 Women's Fellowship Christmas Banquet

### SUNDAY, December 16

9:00 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Worship 3rd Sunday of Advent, *Sermon* Through the Spirit, God's servant will be a light to the nations, bringing release to prisoners.

Annual Christmas Dinner