



Midland First United Methodist Church

Order of Worship for Sunday, December 22, 2024
4th Sunday of Advent

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Ding Dong! Merrily on High" arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
Joyful Bells

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

***OPENING HYMN** "Once in Royal David's City" UMH #250

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

Following the Children's Blessing, all children are invited to join us for Sunday School in P4. *If your child is joining us for the first time, please accompany them to the classroom.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Hope is Dawning on the World" by Larry Shackley
Chancel Choir

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Please sign the friendship notepads.

SPECIAL OFFERTORY MUSIC "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"
by Sears & Willis
Gabrielle Cook-McIlvenna, organ

***DOXOLOGY** "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #94

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

READING OF THE WORD Matthew 2:1-2, 7-12
Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON "An Unlikely Advent: A Curious People"
Rev. Jeremy Africa

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

***HYMN** "The First Noel" UMH #245

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Go Tell it On the Mountain (Gigue)" arr. A.D. Miller

*Please stand if able

Welcome! May your time in worship this morning be meaningful. It is our hope and prayer that you find the presence of God and a spirit of friendship and caring. Please join us for refreshments following worship in the Parlor. If you are visiting for the first time, we would like to share a gift with you.
The Nursery is open during worship for children from birth through the age of 3. Busy bags for preschoolers are available in P4.

Sunday worship services at First UMC are live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube and available afterward for watch-on-demand. They are also broadcast throughout the week on Midland Cable Television (MCTV, channel 188) and on 97.7 and 107.7 fm on Sundays at 11 am.

First Glance

Sun Dec 22, 2024

10 am Advent Worship Service
11 am Sunday Friendship Lunch
11:15 am Adult Forum
11:15 am Youth Group

Mon Dec 23, 2024

5 pm Kiwanis

Tue Dec 24, 2024

4 pm Christmas Eve Service - Family
7 pm Christmas Eve Service - Traditional
11 pm Christmas Eve Service & Communion

Wed Dec 25, 2024

Office Closed - Merry Christmas!

Thur Dec 26, 2024

Office Closed - Merry Christmas!

Fri Dec 27, 2024

7 pm AA Meeting

Sun Dec 29, 2024

10 am Advent Worship Service
11 am Sunday Friendship Lunch
11:15 am Adult Forum
11:15 am Youth Group

Save the Date

Dec 30 - Jan 1, 2025

Church Office Closed - Happy New Year!

Holiday Office Hours

The church building will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and Thursday, December 26.

The building will also be closed on Monday, December 30 - Wednesday, January 1, and will open again on Thursday, January 2, 2025.



For more announcements and information, please see our weekly eBlast. If you do not receive it, call the office or email: reception@fumcmid.org



Midland First United Methodist Church

315 W Larkin Street
Midland MI 48640
(989) 835-6797
www.fumcmidweb.org

Worship Schedule Christmas Eve

·Christmas Eve Family Service & Candle Lighting, Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m.: This Christmas Eve Service will celebrate the birth of Jesus in a way that is especially meaningful to children and families! All are invited. We will tell about the birth of Jesus through a living nativity, where all children who come are invited to participate!

·Christmas Eve Services & Candle Lighting, Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 7 and 11 p.m.: Celebrate Jesus' birth with one another, family, friends, and neighbors! All are invited. With the singing of carols, reading of Scripture, and lighting of candles, let's rejoice in Jesus' birth, whose "life brought light to everyone!" The 11 p.m. service will include the celebration of Holy Communion.

Lead Pastor - Rev. Jeremy Africa ext. 145(jafrica@fumcmid.org)
Associate Pastor - Rev. Bethany Maciejewski ext. 111(bmaciejewski@fumcmid.org)
Administrative Services Director/HR - Erika Hall ext. 110 (office@fumcmid.org)
Children & Youth Director - Hilary Ferguson ext. 112 (hferguson@fumcmid.org)
Administrative Assistant - Melanie Lonsway (reception@fumcmid.org)
Music Director - Gabrielle Cook-McIlvenna ext. 137..... (gmcilvenna@fumcmid.org)
Choir Director - Tyler Morse ext. 141 (tmorse@fumcmid.org)
Bookkeeper - Padmaja Potnis ext. 116 (bookkeeper@fumcmid.org)
Tech Manager - Brian Gulliver ext. 142..... (technologymanager@fumcmid.org)
Video Tech - Dennis Caney ext. 139..... (video@fumcmid.org)
Building Manager - Tom Strauss ext. 127 (tstrauss@fumcmid.org)
Custodian - Jamie Booth ext. 121 (jbooth@fumcmid.org)
Prayer Requests (prayer@fumcmid.org)



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A Curious People”
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