



 **Main Street**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



WORSHIPPING



SERVING



BUILDING



WELCOMING

Sunday, December 21, 2014
Services at 8:30/11:00am
www.msumc1.org and 92.9FM (WZLA) Sundays at noon

Our Mission: "Following Christ from City Center"

THE SUNDAY SERVICE

11:00am

4th Sunday in Advent

Color: Purple

*Stand as able

A nursery is provided

Large print hymnals, bulletins, and hearing devices are available from the ushers.

"Jesus lived all his life under the suspicion of irregular, immoral origins."

ENTRANCE

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE Pray as you enter; assume silence at the chiming

TRINITY CHIME

Sam Crooks

PRELUDE

Gesu Bambino

Josh Harrington: Organist

WELCOME AND SILENCE Peggy Ackerman: Prayer Sentinel, Phil Thraikill: Pastor

***GREETING**

Trinitarian Greeting, Psalm 130:5-8

As the friends of God, let us bless the Lord!

Blessed be God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word do I hope.

My soul waits for the Lord,

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord is great mercy.

With him is plenteous redemption,

And he will redeem Israel from all their sins."

***PROCESSION HYMN, NO. 234**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Stanzas 1-5

Crucifer: Sam Crooks, Acolytes: Libby Hartung, Trace Meredith

Advent Banner: Joe Hartung

***COMMON PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON**

Based on Luke 1:18-25

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray:

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we thank you for stories of the holy family,
how you recruited Mary with a visit from Gabriel
and then informed Joseph in a dream of the great adventure.
Into their marriage and into their trust and care Jesus was born.
A humble village, an occupied land,
an irregular pregnancy, an adopted father,
a first-born son, and rumors everywhere.
It was never easy or ideal in any way, but they were faithful.
It was their privilege to shape the human life of our Savior.
But we, O Lord,
have often asked of our families what they cannot provide.
We have even made an idol of them, and so lived in disappointment.
Forgive our sins, particularly against those who live closest to us.
Free us to follow Jesus Christ together in your larger family the church,
and may your Holy Spirit breathe divine wisdom and light upon us all.
Amen. (Silence is kept for confession, Pardon is announced.)**

***ACT OF PRAISE, No. 230**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Stanza 4 Only

WELCOME VISITORS, REGISTER ATTENDANCE, CHURCH CONCERNS

PROCLAMATION AND PRAISE

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

(The Crooks family: Brab, Margaret, Sam, Hannah)

Let us pray:

**God of hope, God of peace,
God of joy, and God of love,
teach us how to love one another
as reflections of your light in the world.
God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come. Amen**

Song

A Candle is Burning

To the tune of *Away in a Manger*

**A candle is burning, a candle of LOVE,
A candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to the earth.**

**WHAT THE U.M. CHURCH TEACHES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST
CHILDREN'S TIME**

Scripture Sheet
Myra Greene

ANTHEM

Where Shepherd's Lately Knelt (Courtney)
Larry Moore: Director

Chancel Choir

SERMON LESSON

Saved By A Dream!
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON

An Alternative Telling
What would it mean for me to be as attentive and obedient as Joseph?

Phil Thrailkill: Pastor

RESPONSES TO THE WORD

***HYMN, No. 230**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Josh Harrington: Organist

***DOXOLOGY, Chorus of No. 238**

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, LORD'S PRAYER**

***CONFESSING THE FAITH**

The Nicene Creed

Hymnal: 880

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Brab Crooks: Staff-Parrish Relations Committee

SENDING FORTH

***HYMN, No. 216**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

Phil Thrailkill: Pastor

***SUNG RESPONSE, NO. 666**

Shalom to You

There will be no prayer meeting on Thursday this week; it's Christmas Day!
The church office will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Dec. 26
The Chapel is open for prayer before and after the worship service.

Dec. 24, 3:30pm: Our Outreach Service

Dec. 24, 6:00pm: Traditional Christmas Eve Service (Nursery available)