



Newport United Methodist Church
 1596 Eleventh Avenue
 Newport, Minnesota 55055-1649
 Jesus Christ, *Head*
 The Congregation, *Ministers*
 Rev. Linda J. Gesling, *Pastor*



ADVENT

-a Retreat in the City-

*Newport United Methodist Church is a people of God
 dedicated to following the teaching of Jesus
 so that we and others can grow in our faith.*

Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Tracy Birttnen, Leader

Gathering

We come together in the name of the Lord.

Please record your attendance by signing the registration pad -
 members, friends and visitors alike.

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Church Bell Toll

Symbol of the Spirit's Presence

Introit
 No. 2271

"Come! Come! Everybody Worship" Natalie Sleeth
 Newport UMC Choir

Announcements

Call to Worship

L: Long ago, a voice cried out in the wilderness

P: Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight the pathways.

L: Something new was about to happen.

P: God would visit God's people in a new way!

L: Lord, open our hearts to receive this good news!

P: Prepare us to be people of great faith and compassion as we look forward to this wondrous event you have proclaimed to us. AMEN.

*Hymn
 No. 202

"People, Look East"

*Greeting One Another

Anthem
 [c]2005 Hope Publ.

"How Quietly"

Joel Raney
 Newport UMC Choir
 Judy Lieffring, Director

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 40:1-11 (OT p. 667-68)
 Mark 1:1-8 (NT p.34)

Unison Prayer

As the voice cried out in the wilderness, God, you enter our lives and call to us to be open to hearing the cries of people who feel lost and alienated, who feel that no one cares or ever will care about them. We have been given that opportunity to reach out through the ministries and mission of our church bringing hope and peace to all. Get us ready to become pathways of peace and life-transforming love in your name. It is in the spirit of Jesus' name that we pray. AMEN.

*Hymn
 No. 229

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Message
 [c]2002 Jan Karon

"Esther's Gift" by Jan Karon

Tracy Birttnen

Offering
 Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

Prayer Requests

The Lord's Prayer (trespasses)

*Hymn
 No. 213

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Sending Forth

The people are sent into ministry with the Lord's blessing.

*Circle of Benediction

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"
 No. 557, verse 1

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
 the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Extinguishing of the Candles

Taking the Light into the World

Church Bell Toll

Postlude

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE
 USHERS' TABLE.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE.

This week's ushers are volunteers to whom we are grateful!
 Last Sunday's ushers were Sherry Elg and Teri Reynolds.
 Our acolyte is Donald Birttnen.

Nancy Martinsen has presented poinsettias in honor of her parents,
 Louis and Eleanor Horvath.

If you would like to provide flowers in
 dedication to a loved one, or an occasion, contact the church
 office so that it can be noted in the bulletin.

Looking Ahead . . .

Sunday, December 10		<i>Second Sunday in Advent</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service
		Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Social Time, Adult Study
Wednesday, December 13		
	6:30 p.m.	Voice Choir, S
	7:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir, FH
Thursday, December 14	Noon	Red Rockers Luncheon North Pole, Newport Center
Friday, December 15	4:00 p.m.	Please have your Adopt-a-Family gifts at the office
Saturday, December 16	1:30 p.m.	United Church of God Service
Sunday, December 17		<i>Third Sunday in Advent</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service
		Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Social Time, Adult Study

Got Santa cards? You can recycle them by giving them to Bobbie Woodward. This year Bobbie is making two Santa books! There is a mail slot in the office just for adding to Bobbie's collection.

Card exchange: the box is in the narthex by the door going out. We plan to have the cards sorted for the morning service on December 24.

Upholding the Church with our...

Prayers : for Doug's brothers **Gary** who continues to recover from stomach cancer, and **Ted** who is facing a diagnosis of throat cancer; for Teri's foster mother **Lynn** who had foot surgery last Wednesday; or the family of Donna's mother-in-law **Marlene Olson** who passed away week before last; for Gale and Marilyn's son-in-law **Mike** who was hospitalized at the VA with multiple concerns; for Ruth's granddaughter **Carrie** who is having challenges in her pregnancy with twins; for the family of Sherry and Tracy's cousin **David** who passed away while in hospice care; for Bob and Sue's friend **Judy** who is awaiting a bone marrow transplant; for Ethel's sister-in-law **Eileen** who is dealing with aggressive cancer; for **Tom** who is recovering from a brain aneurysm; for Nancy's friend **Mary** who faces cancer surgery; for Bob's friend **Jack** who is diagnosed with cancer; for Bonnie's friend **Georgette** who is undergoing treatment for cancer and has many other issues; for **Lolita, Bruce, Kathy, Barb, Chuck and Joanne and grandson Joe, Scott, Vicki, Karen, Dave, Lowell, ...** We pray for safety for all travelers; for good health for all of our congregation; for all those facing health care finance crises; for a peaceful solution in Korea; for immigrants coming and trying to come into the United States; for the victims of the attacks in New York City, Sutherland Springs, TX, and Rancho Tehama, CA; for the victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria; for everyone in the path of California wildfires again; for the victims and responders to the earthquakes in Mexico and in Iraq and Iran; the victims and remorseful perpetrators of sexual harassment; the missing Argentine submariners; we pray for the police and first responders whose jobs are often difficult and dangerous; for safety for elected officials; and for the victims of storms throughout the country; for people and families dealing with mental illness; for victims of violence all around us; for children who have suffered abuse; for all families whose loved ones are missing.
 Please keep **Tonnie** in your prayers for continued recovery.

Joys: **Garel** is getting around again, great to see her with us! **Pastor Sue** now shows no sign of cancer. **Peter** is back at school. Eldon and Dorothy's son-in-law **Art** is back to work following heart surgery.
Thank God for good outcomes!

Perhaps you have asked us to uphold a loved one in our prayers. If so please give us an update as their conditions change, as a joy or a concern.

Presence: Last week's Attendance at Worship = 31
Gifts: Last week's total Offering = \$1852
Service: Thanks to John Brenneman for overseeing the start of concrete work on the dumpster enclosure, and taking care of the enclosure gates!

Welcome to our Visitors ...

We are delighted you have chosen to worship here today! May you experience a sincere welcome and a sense of God's love for you. We gather as a community of faith to share the good news of Jesus Christ. We encourage you to return many times and to bring others with you.

Nursery care for children under 3 years of age is available during the worship service. Holy Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month and is open for all to receive as a sacramental gift from God.

We provide individual pastoral care by request. You may call Pastor Linda for an appointment. If you would like to discuss baptism for yourself or a member of your family, arrangements can be made by contacting the pastor. Persons desiring to marry may speak with the pastor to schedule pre-marital counseling. We are willing to provide additional services as needed - simply call the church office (651/459-2747, at extension 1).

You are cordially invited to become an active participant of any of our program opportunities as noted in our weekly bulletin. Christian Education is available September through May for adults. If you enjoy music, you are welcome to join our voice and handbell choirs. We share in a growing ministry where volunteer opportunities are available, matching your skills to church and community needs.

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, *The Key*, or wish to make a comment/suggestion, please note such on the back of a prayer request card found in the pew pocket and place it on the offering plate. We hope that we may provide the sense of community and stimulation of character you have been searching for.

Newport United Methodist Church Staff

Rev. Linda Gesling	Pastor
Judy Lieffring	Director of Music
Mike Nelson	Handbell Choir Director, Administrative Asst.
John Brenneman	Treasurer
Catherine Klimek	Custodian

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays
Voicemail is monitored outside office hours.

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 Pastor's email: ljgesling@gmail.com