



O COME,
ALL YE

Faithful

JOYFUL
AND
TRIUMPH

VISITOR INFORMATION

Welcome to Community United Methodist Church!

If you're visiting Community for the first time, we have a welcome gift we'd like to share with you that is located just outside the sanctuary doors. Inside of the gift bag, you'll find a **peace candle** for use in your personal devotions or to share with your home congregation as well as more information about our ministries.

On the lower level of the church, you'll find a staffed nursery. Infants and children are always welcome in the service as well.

Everyone is invited to a time of fellowship in the lower level of the church immediately following worship. If you are looking for a church home, we would love to see you again.

*We are a congregation called to
serve God's people in Columbia Heights and around
the world through our various outreach,
mission and educational ministries.*

*Thank you for worshipping with us at
Community United Methodist Church today!*

Large print hymnals and bulletins are available, as are hearing devices and back supports. Ask an usher for assistance.

Community United Methodist Church

December 24, 2017 – 4:30 p.m.

A time of quiet reflection is appreciated as we gather for worship. During this time, you may wish to use one of the prayer slips at the end of each pew to request a prayer to be lifted up during the service.

Chimes

Organ Prelude:

“Ave Maria”

-Bach/Gormod

Welcome

Carol: *“The First Noel”*, verse 1

Red Hymnal #245

Our Advent Lighting of the Wreath

One: Each week of Advent we lit a candle highlighting a special word to bring us toward God’s love, hope, joy and peace.

All: We remember that each candle has significance in our time of Advent, and bringing us into a spirit of waiting and hoping for the Christmas season.

One: We light the candles for love, hope, joy, and peace.

All: We retell the stories each year, they become our own oral tradition passed down from generation to generation, guiding us to the beginning of Christmas.

One: Our passage this Advent season comes from Isaiah 9: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His authority shall grow

(* Please rise in body or spirit, as you are able)

continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*** Hymn: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”, verse 1**

Red Hymnal #224

*** Prayer**

One: O God, you have brought us again to this very special night when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Because of Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph, the star and the manger, we know you as one who is not just up there or out there, beyond us, be as a part of our lives, identified with infants and infinite, and stables and stars.

All: An old story, retold, with new meaning, carols that remind us of our wonder and mystery, hope and joy, and willingness to begin the story of this babe, named Jesus.

Anthem

“Mary, Mary”

-Mary Donnelly and George L.O.
The MethoDivas

Meditation

Rev. Linda McCollough

Children’s Time

**There is no Sunday School today – all children are invited to join in at the activities table during service.

Offering

Musical Offertory:

“O Holy Night”

-Adolphe Adam
The MethoDivas

(* Please rise in body or spirit, as you are able)

Intro to Christmas Eve

Isaiah 61:1-3 CEB

Carol: "Love Came Down at Christmas", verse 1

Red Hymnal #242

The Spirit of the Lord: Isaiah 9:2-4

Carol: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", verses 1, 4

Red Hymnal #211

The Place of Bethlehem: Micah 5:2-5a

Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" verse 1

Red Hymnal #230

The Magnificat: Luke 2:46-55

Carol: "O Come, All Ye Faithful", verses 1, 3

Red Hymnal #234

The Angel Appears to Joseph: Matthew 1:18-21

Carol: "There's a Song in the Air", verse 1

Red Hymnal #249

Going to be Registered: Luke 2:1-7

Carol: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly", v. 1

Red Hymnal #229

The Birth of the Christ Child: Luke 2:8-14

Carol: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" verses 1, 2

Red Hymnal #220

The Shepherds and Angels: Luke 2:15-18

Carol: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" verse 1

Red Hymnal #240

Mary's Pondering: Luke 2:19-20

Carol: "Angels We Have Heard on High" verse 1

Red Hymnal #238

(* Please rise in body or spirit, as you are able)

Mary's Pondering: Luke 2:19-20

Carol: "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" verse 1

Red Hymnal #218

Sharing the Light

Hymn

"*Peace, Peace*" (introduction to hymn) -Rick & Sylvia Powell

The MethoDivas

"*Silent Night, Holy Night*"

Red Hymnal#239

Between verse 2 and verse 3, we have a whistling solo by Joan Bixler, who is a retired professional whistler. Joan is a survivor of cancer and was told she would never whistle again. We rejoice in her abilities! Please wait until she is finished before singing verse 3.

Christmas Blessing

Please exit the sanctuary in a quiet spirit.

Thank you to our Worship Team

Greeters: Anna Lexvold

Advent Family The ReinholdsonFamily

The Holy Family The Rodriguez Family

Music Leaders: Organist - Sharon Ruhnke

Bell Choir - Karen Schneider

Music Director – Elaine Hill

Sound System: Andy Bixler/James Bordewick

(* Please rise in body or spirit, as you are able)

Thank you!

We want to acknowledge the following for sharing their musical gifts during service today: Joan Bixler, Naomi Jones, Kari Trench, and Joanie Anderson.

Thank you to all of our readers and to Evan Wigert for assisting in lighting the congregational candles.

Pastor Linda will be on vacation

following the Christmas Day. In case of a pastoral emergency between 12/26/17 and 1/2/18, please contact Reverend Susan Mullin's cell phone at (763) 229-4156. Please leave a message or send a text and she will respond to you. Thank you!

Office Hours

The office is closed on December 25th and December 26th in observance of Christmas.

(* Please rise in body or spirit, as you are able)

Our Vision

We are an urban, intergenerational, inclusive and welcoming Christian fellowship woven into the fabric of our community.

Our Staff

Pastor	Linda McCollough
Ministers	All the Congregation
Office Manager	Karyn Naber
Music Director	Elaine Hill
Organist	Sharon Ruhnke
Bell Choir Director	Karen Schneider

Church Office: 763-788-9009

Pastoral Emergencies: 612-978-2917

Visit us online at

www.communitymethodistchurch.org

or find us on Facebook

Pastor Linda's Email:

pastorlinda@communitymethodistchurch.org

Office Email:

office@communitymethodistchurch.org