

Announcements

“Charlie Brown Christmas” Worship Series — will run throughout Advent. The choir and children will offer a program during worship next Sunday, December 22nd. Our St. James neighbors will join us for this worship service.

Advent Candle Lighting—Help is needed to light the Advent Candles this month and Christmas Eve! Families and groups are welcome to work together. A signup is on the red bulletin board.

Christmas Eve Worship — Join us for worship on Christmas Eve at Emmanuel! At 10 a.m. we will gather for a Family Worship, offering a Children’s Storytime and Hymn Sing. Candle-light and Communion Worship will be offered at 8 p.m.

Joint Worship with St. James December 29th. — Our St. James neighbors will host us for a joint worship service at their church on Sunday, December 29th. Worship will be at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday night meal—Join us again on this week for our last Dinner Church of 2024 this Wednesday at 5:30! This week is our big Christmas Dinner!

Cookies Fudge & Soup Sale December 14th—Thank you to all who helped make this happen! Plus, there are a few items still left that you can pick up this morning!

Help needed as part of our Treasurer Team—Barb Steele is stepping down after serving as our treasurer for several years. We are looking for someone to work as part of a team to fill the role, potentially a person to help with payroll while others do the accounting. If you are interested please connect with our Finance Chair Paul Sagers or Pastor Ben.

“The Weary World Rejoices” Advent Devotional—is available today! Meeting times are Tuesday nights at 6pm (Zoom), Wednesday afternoons 2pm (St. James), and Wednesday evenings after Dinner Church.

Adopt-a-Family — was a success! Many thanks to all who helped bring Christmas joy to a family at Edison Elementary School.

Emmanuel Prayer Joys and Concerns

- ♥ For Hazel’s friend, Mark, who had his leg removed due to sepsis.
- ♥ For Emily and all our young thespians who have upcoming auditions and performances.

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740 E. College Avenue
Appleton, WI 54911
(920) 731-3288
www.emmanuel-umc.org

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EMMANUEL

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We welcome. We worship. We Witness.



Rediscovering Joy in Simplicity

Zephaniah 3:14-20

December 15, 2024

Prelude

Welcome — PASTOR BEN MORRIS

Choral Gathering — Come Now, O Prince of Peace — BLACK 2232—VS 1

Call to Worship

Children of God, our world is full of the fruit of humanity's greed,
apathy, and neglect for the love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

What, then, should we do?

Our world is also full of the fruit of God's love that wells up all around us,
sustaining us, saving us, reviving us to live as the people of God.

What, then, should we do?

God encircles us on every side,

Love divine present with us in creation, in community,
and in the anticipated arrival of the infant Emmanuel.

What then, children of God, should you do?

**We will live in joyful presence with God and neighbor,
turning away from sin and toward a life with God and one another
marked by joy, justice, and mercy.**

Hymn – Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates — RED 213

Advent Affirmation of Faith — ALL

**We believe in the coming of the Light that shatters all darkness
and brings love to all people.**

**We believe in peace, and that one day
all nations shall enter the house of God,
where love and mercy flow like a mighty river.**

We believe in a hope that casts out fear.

**We believe in waiting patiently for the coming of the Lord,
knowing it is Christ who restores us and leads us to salvation.**

We believe in being ready,

**for Christ comes at unexpected times and places,
in the form of strangers, friends, and family.**

**We believe that we are called to welcome one another,
just as Christ has welcomed us.**

**We believe that the Holy Spirit helps us live in harmony with one another,
and prepare our hearts and our lives for the birth of a child who is called
“Prince of Peace,” “Emmanuel,” “God with us.” Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Children's Moment - PASTOR BEN

Advent Candle Lighting— LEADERSHIP BOARD

Advent Song— Light One Candle — BLACK 2090 — vs 3

Offering

Offering Response — Doxology — RED 95

Scripture — Zephaniah 3:14-20

God, we thank you for your Word.

The story of your grace.

Sermon — Rediscovering Joy in Simplicity — PASTOR BEN

Choral Anthem — Joy to the World— CHOIR

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymn— People Look East — RED 202

Benediction

Postlude