

**FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
MAPLE LEAF PARISH  
DECEMBER 11, 2011  
9:00 A.M.**

*The asterisk (\*) indicates those times in the worship when those who are able are invited to stand, if you choose to do so.*

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**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(Please pass the attendance registration pads. We ask all members, as well as our guests, to fill out the information.)*

**GATHERING WORDS**

Leader: What are your dreams, people of God?

People: **To be filled with laughter; to cry with joy, not with sorrow.**

Leader: What are your hopes, people of God?

People: **To be free of the chains that bind us; to shout with thanksgiving, not with anguish.**

Leader: Rejoice, people of God; here and now, God makes our hopes and dreams come true.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

INTROIT Bell Choir

**THE LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE**

*(We light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath)*

If Jesus comes to us again at Christmas this year, and if Jesus dwells within each of us, shouldn't that make a difference in who we are and how we live our lives?

THE SCRIPTURE 1 Thessalonians 5: 16 -24

**THE ADVENT REFLECTION**

If we seek Jesus, who is born in the manger, shouldn't we:

.....be at peace among ourselves?

.....help the weak and the poor?

.....not repay evil for evil, but always do good to one another?

.....in all circumstances, give thanks?

*(We light the third candle of the Advent wreath)*

**ALL: COME, LORD JESUS. AMEN.**

ADVENT HYMN "O Come, O Come Emmanuel UMH#211

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

God of justice and love, we enter into your presence with hopeful hearts. Gather us in as a well-tended harvest. Fill our hearts with joy at your promised coming. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may be people who act in justice; people who live in righteousness. Flow through our hearts and our lives that we may be bearers of good news and hope for all the world. **Amen**

MISSION PRESENTATION

*Malaria is My Name*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Bell Choir

**SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS**

Sweet Hour of Prayer UMH#496, VS 3

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**OUR 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.**

THE RECEIVING of our TITHES and OFFERING

Offertory Music

Presentation of our Offering

\*Offertory Prayer (responsive)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances. Let us give thanks silently for the many ways God has blessed us and enabled us. ( a moment of silent prayer)

**In praise and hope we thank you, O God. Amen**

THE SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 26 -38

**HYMN OF PREPARATION**

*"There's Something About That Name" UMH#171*

THE MESSAGE

*"How Can This Be?"*

\*CLOSING HYMN *"Sent Forth by God's Blessing" UMH #670*

\*CLOSING PRAYER

UMH#231

\*POSTLUDE

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

You are invited to “The Greatest Christmas Present Ever!” by Rachel Carson today at 10:30 am following a brief fellowship hour. A very special message and music given to you this Christmas Season!

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Winona & Fillmore Counties**

The Commonwealth Theatre Company in Lanesboro will be presenting a special performance of its Christmas play, “Parfumerie” on Sunday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m., as a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity for Winona-Fillmore Counties. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students with 100 percent of the ticket sales going towards this cause. The F&M Community Bank is matching \$.50 for every \$1 donated.

### **2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

The 2012 offering envelopes are available in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not see a packet with your name on it, please notify the church office and one will be prepared for you.

### **CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER**

The Spring Valley Ministerial Association will once again be sponsoring the Christmas Day dinner held here at Faith Church on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup>. St. Ignatius Catholic Church is in charge of preparations this year. If you’re planning to attend please call the Faith Church office to reserve your meal(s). A free-will offering will be taken to go to the Ministerial Associations Emergency Assistance Fund.

### **POINSETTIAS**

We would like your help in creating a Poinsettia Garden during the month of December. Please inform the church office as to whom the poinsettia is in memory of so that it can be recorded in the bulletin. You may bring it to the church or have it delivered. Thank you!

### **POINSETTIAS IN MEMORY**

*Joe Kunert from  
Kirk & Betty, Cecil & Lyli, Jake & Rachel*

*Loren & Bernice Terbeest & Arne & Millie Thompson from  
Larry & Arlys Terbeest*