

May grace meet you here . . .

WELCOME

Prelude *From Heaven Above To Earth I Come*
Setting: Johann Sebastian Bach

Greeting and Welcome

Passing of the Peace

Centering Singing Bowl

Special Music *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
The Steed Family

+Call to Worship
Before the sun rises, a single star still
shimmers—a reminder that God works in
shadows and in light.

We come seeking Emmanuel, God-with-us.

In a world of beauty and brokenness, God
draws near, taking on flesh and bone.

Awaken us to Love, O God.

Make room in our hearts for the One who
chooses the lowly and the ordinary.

**Come to us, Emmanuel. We are ready to
receive You.**

+Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*
UMH #213 vs 1-3

Lighting of the Advent Candles

One: Today we continue the Road to
Emmanuel—the road that leads us to Jesus,
God-with-us.

Two: Advent begins in the dark, but God gives
us light enough for the next step.

One: We have lit candles for **Hope, Peace,**
and **Joy.**

Two: Today we light the fourth candle—
the candle of **Love**, for Love is a sign from God.

(*Light candle of Love*)

**All: God of Love, awaken us to your presence.
Help us notice your beauty in unexpected
places, your signs in ordinary moments, and
your love made flesh in Jesus, Emmanuel.
Amen.**

Sung Response
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
UMH #196

Children's Message

Special Music Just for Fun
Silent Night Franz Gruber
arr. Gary Meidt

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

THE WORD

Scripture Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-25

+Hymn *People, Look East* UMH #202

Message
The Road to Emmanuel | Awaken to Love

THANKSGIVING

Generosity Campaign Kevin Merkle

Offertory Music *Oh, Come, Emmanuel*
Setting: Wilbur Held

Offertory Liturgy

**God of Love, you come to us in humble and
holy ways: in a child born homeless,
in dreams that open our imagination, in signs
of your presence we often overlook. As we
bring our gifts, center our hearts and steady
our steps toward your light. Let what we give
today—and how we live—become signs of
hope, compassion, and Emmanuel's peace in
this weary world. Amen.**

+Hymn *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*
UMH #240

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Benediction

Postlude *Fantasy on "Antioch"*
(*Joy To The World*) Setting: Emma Lou Dieme

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Donna Dempewolf, Pastor
Kevin Merkle, Reader
Joanne Rodland, Organist
Special Music:

Jesse, Kathryn, Robert and Henry Steed
Just for Fun:
Kevin Dahle
Dave Drentlaw
Tim Hanson
David Miller
Ned Newberg
Dave Wolf

If you are new here . . .

- ✧ We are so glad you joined us!
- ✧ **If you would benefit from a large print bulletin or a hearing assistance device, please ask an usher.**
- ✧ +Please stand as able when you see this symbol as we move through the order of worship.
- ✧ Words for congregational liturgy and song are listed in the bulletin or projected on the screen at the front of the sanctuary. Most hymns can be found in the hardcover *United Methodist Hymnal* (2-3 digit) or soft cover *The Faith We Sing* (4 digit) located in the pews. We also have Bibles for following along with Scripture.
- ✧ Check our website for more information.

For Parents

- ✧ Want to learn more about NUMC's ministry with children, youth, and families? Join our email list! info@northfieldumc.org
- ✧ Staffed nursery available for children during worship.

Northfield United Methodist Church Mission

We are companions in Christ, called, nurtured, and sent out for this purpose: to glorify God by acts of worship, devotion, compassion, and justice.

Donna Dempewolf, Pastor

Kristen Twitchell, Interim Youth Director

Izel Thoele, Youth & Children's Intern

Ruth Kruse, Parish Nurse

For more information visit our website at
www.northfieldumc.org.

Miss a week?

Watch our worship service online
on our website!

*Jesus Christ calls us to offer welcome,
hospitality and God's gracious love to all.*

Upcoming Events

Sundays

9:30 am – Worship
9:40 am – Children's Church
10:30 am – Coffee in Fellowship Hall
10:30 am – Adult Faith Formation
No Children's Church December 28th

Wednesdays

3:30 – 5:30 pm, (K-5th Grade) Fun, Faith & Food
Snack
5:30-6:15 pm – Community Meal
6:15 pm – Adult Choir
6:30 pm – Handbell Choir
6:30 pm – Youth Fellowship
No Super Wednesday December 24 and 31

Upcoming Events

Women's Bible Study, Tuesday, December 23, 9:00
am, room #120

Men's Breakfast, Friday, December 26, 8:00 am,
Fellowship Hall

December Christmas Events

Service of Longest Night, Sunday, December 21,
4:00 pm, music prelude 3:45 pm, NUMC
Christmas Eve Worship, Wednesday, December
24th, 4:30 pm and 10:00 pm

Adult Faith Formation 10:30 am, Reception Room
12/21: Cosmic Spirituality: Doing Hopeful Things, but
mostly Caroling Together

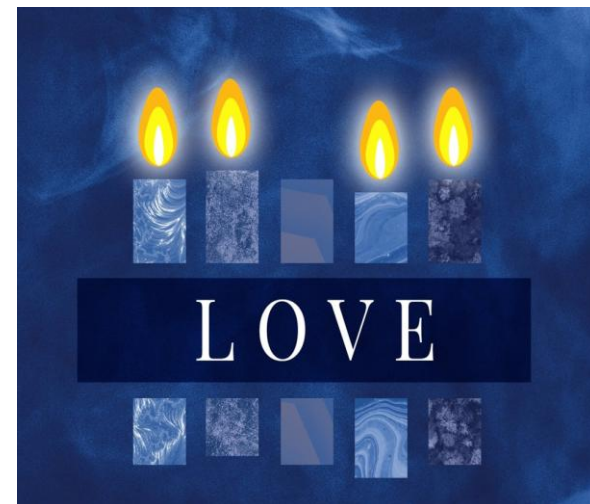
LIGHTS OUT FOR THE YOUTH, Sunday December
21, 6-7 pm, to raise awareness of youth housing
insecurity. Turn out your lights from 6-7 p.m. Faith
leaders will be hosting a moment of silence and
prayer at Bridge Square at 6 p.m. For more
information and to donate,
visit www.lightsoutfortheyouth.org.

The church office will be closed Dec. 24-Jan. 1

Worship.
Devotion.



Compassion.
Justice.



The Road to Emmanuel

December 21, 2025
9:30 am

Northfield United Methodist Church

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Website: www.northfieldumc.org