



# **Sebastian United Methodist Church**

*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

December 8, 2019

2nd Sunday of Advent

## **Welcome to Worship**

**Welcome**

Pastor John Gill

**Opening Voluntary**

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

by Hugo Distler

**Introit**

“To a Maid Engaged to Joseph”

**\*Hymn of Presence PP**

“View the Present Through the Promise”

AR HYD Y NOW

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Ron & Judy Highhouse

*The world is waiting.*

**Come and set us free.**

*Waiting to live in harmony.*

**Come and set us free.**

*Waiting for things to be turned upside down.*

**Come and set us free.**

*Waiting for freedom.*

**Come and set us free.**

*Waiting for the promised Messiah.*

**Come and set us free.**

*Come, O unexpected Jesus!*

*We await the age-to-be*

*when your will for earth and heaven*

*brings them into harmony.*

*Come to us, O Christ our Savior,*

*come and set creation free!*

As we light two candles on the Advent wreath this morning, we remember the promised light of Christ that fills the darkness and is not overcome by it. We anticipate the coming of the light to set us free and bring peace and harmony to our broken world.

**As we wait for you, Christ our Savior, fill us with anticipation and openness to receive the freedom only your love can bring. Help us to be active in creating harmony in our community.**

**Amen.**

**Ministry Moment**

arr Mark Hayes

My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

*Refrain*

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,

You will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around.

**Prayer of Illumination**

Leigh Standley

**Scripture Reading**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

**\*Hymn of Proclamation PP**

"Unexpected and Mysterious"

BEACH SPRING

**\*Reading of the Holy Gospel**

Luke 1:26-38

**Message**

"The Birth of a Revolutionary"

Rev. John Gill

**The Offering**

Presentation of God's Tithe, our Offerings, and Prayer Requests  
(*place prayer request cards in the offering plate*)

**Offertory # 214**

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

**\*Doxology # 95****Sharing Prayer Concerns, Congregational Prayer, Lords Prayer****\*Hymn of Invitation # 211**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"  
Stanzas 1-4

VENI EMMANUEL

**\* Benediction****\*Congregational Response # 204**

"Emmanuel"

MCGEE

**Closing Voluntary**

\*Congregation please stand if able

Altar flowers today are given by Ron & Judy Highhouse in honor of all their friends  
Flowers by Amazing Creations

### **Welcome to Sebastian United Methodist Church**

We hope that you will feel the warmth of this loving congregation while  
you are here worshipping with us

***Join us for coffee and light refreshments after worship in the Fellowship Hall***

#### **Good Coffee and Good Fellowship**

The coffee hour has always been a very important part of the 10:00 AM service SUMC. . It is an integral part of our Church's Fellowship. At the Coffee Hour, we renew old friendships and meet and greet new members to our family. It is here that the family of SUMC is nourished, not just with food, but with warmth that only the laughter and conversation of friends can bring. Everyone is welcome. Join us for Coffee Hour every Sunday after the 10 am service.

#### **Would You Like to Help Coffee Hour?**

Won't you please consider bringing a favorite baked item to a coffee hour. Since this is a

church function each Sunday, we would like to see new families and members participate in this special ministry.

If we just went to the Service and then went home, we would never get to know each other. We would never grow as a Church family. We would like to thank all those who have donated goodies for coffee hours in the past. Everyone appreciates your effort.

If you would like to bring a favorite recipe, speak to the Coffee Hour Crew to choose your Sunday, or call Sharon in the church office to let us know how you would like to help. Church office 772-589-5230

#### **Good News! Sebastian UMC is going "green"**

The Administrative Council by consensus has decided to start the process of going "green". The following is an excerpt from the *Social Principles: The Natural World*.

*"All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect."*

Starting small, SUMC will use "real" coffee cups, drinking cups and silverware when the present supply of disposable ones runs out. We will continue to use the small paper cups on water cooler because they are . recyclable (water only) and a small recycle container will be next to the water cooler for your convenience.

#### **Staff Christmas Bonus**

It's time for our annual show our staff appreciation. If you would like to make a contribution toward staff bonuses, please place your check or cash in an envelope and mark it "staff bonuses." Place the envelope in the collection plate or bring it to the church office..

Our staff works hard all year. Let's show our appreciation!

**SUMC Annual Christmas Party Sunday  
December 15**

**“Songs of The Season”  
Christmas Concert  
Sunday, December 15, 4pm**

Featuring SUMC Ensembles  
Adult Choir  
Joyful Ringers  
Handbell Choir  
Brass Ensemble  
Flute Choir

Free Will Offering for  
Ecumenical Food Pantry

Bring a friend, sing along  
and listen to Christmas favorites

**The festivities continue with the  
Christmas Potato Bar Supper  
After the Concert In the Fellowship Hall**



**Christmas Day Dinner  
Marsh Landing Restaurant 4:30 p.m.**

Last year members and friends of Sebastian United Methodist Church met for dinner at Marsh Landing. Continuing this festive gathering, the Christmas Day Dinner Group will meet at Marsh Landing and have dinner together. If you would like to attend please call:

**Lisa Davis 317-850-4966**

**Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed**

SUMC and RUMC are having a ring off on Thursday December 12 at Wal-Mart. Each church will ring at each door. Please see the signup sheet to schedule your time to help ring the bells.

See Donna Osborne or John Gill

**Worship Participants**

Lead Pastor	Rev. John Gill	Ushers	Carolyn & Sam Roper
Music Minister	Megan Mash, MSM		Janice & Brad Marx
Liturgist	Leigh Standley	Greeters	Judy & Ron Highhouse
Media Support	Bud Horner	Acolytes	Natalie Byars
	Ginger Horner		Connie Judisch



**Today's Ministry Focus:**  
Longest Night Service at Roseland UMC

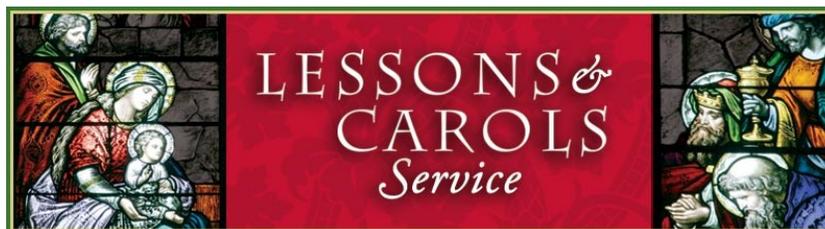
We are now well into the “most wonderful time of the year” for many folks – the Christmas Season – or more accurately, the Advent Season leading to Christmas. It is indeed a wonderful time of year, filled with joy and mirth and blessings.

But for many of us, it is also a bitter-sweet time of year – even a depressing season. While Christmas brings many precious memories of years gone by, it may also conger up painful feelings and emotions – the reminder that a loved one is no longer with us – the realization that a divorce has separated us from those we have loved (and may still love) – the loneliness of being apart from family who live too far away to make a visit possible – even the realization that the number of Christmases left in your life are fewer and fewer. We may find that, while we are being told we should “be merry” and “of good cheer,” we are anxious or depressed.

What do we do when, for us, Christmas is not a time for “making merry?” Well, recognizing WHY you feel depressed is a good first step and is therapeutic. To bring to awareness why we feel as we do can help us begin to move beyond those feelings. Don't deny them. They are real feelings. But don't wallow in them, either.

A new trend among churches is to recognize that, for many people, the Christmas Season is particularly stressful. Many churches are offering “Blue Christmas” or “Longest Night” services during the holidays – quiet contemplative services that don't force you to “put on a happy face,” but give you space to process your feelings, and to reach out to God to help you move beyond them. In fact, our sister congregation, **Roseland UMC, will offer a “Longest Night” service on Saturday, December 21 (probably 4:00 p.m.), and our congregation has been invited to attend.**

Christmas may not be “merry” for you this year, but our prayer for you is that at least it will be “happy.”



**A Service of Lessons & Carols**

Sunday, December 29, 2019

Worship 10:AM

## **Sunday Worship Prayer Requests (three weeks)**

Catherine Gray, Charity Gallagher, Alana, Chloe & Victoria, All mothers who have buried children, Floyd Standley, Cathy Herring erring, Don, Lynn Bergman, Betty Stull, Diann Flanigan, Chris Judah, Pat Arnold, Dena Vasquez

### **Ongoing Prayers**

Jane Hino, George Schultz, Mary Lou Rothfuss, Al & Jon Ray Conniff, Vic Grabis, Sheri Peterson, Alan Shepper, Ray Royall, Betty Stull, Eugene Whitmore, Jeanette Schumacher, Jacque Crick, Mary Jo Barton, Jim Gallagher, Debi Rodriguez, Lloyd Thomas, Sean Cousins, Pauline Adams, William Hutterman, Harold Banta

### **Pray for the Homebound and those is Assisted Living**

Minnie Hungerford, Nellie Brookens, June Crain, Janice & Ed Ertel, Doris McNutt, Carmen Wilson

### **Pray for Our Men and Women In the Military**

Amn. Justin Tuck, (USN), Major Eric Killoran (Army), Lt. Jeremy Venske (USN), MSgt. David Schumacher (USAF), SPC Nicholas Davis (Army), Pvt Thomas Ferraro (Army)

*(Please call the office to update.)*

**Monday**— Bible Study 10 am “Bad Girls of the Bible” SGR Will not meet 16, 23, & 30th of Dec.  
Lois Planeta Small Group 10 am LCR

**Snow Birds Small Group** will have it’s first meeting Tuesday January 14 in the small group room

**Pastor's Bible Study** Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. in the large classroom

**Wednesday Adult Bible Study** 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

**Small Groups and Bible Studies, check with your facilitator if  
unsure of date or time,  
Or holiday changes**

## **Upcoming Events – December**

- December 15, 4 p.m. Christmas Concert followed by the Christmas Potato Bar in the Fellowship Hall
- December 22, 10 am Worship, Christmas Cantata
- December 24 Christmas Eve Services
  - 4:00 p.m. with Communion & Music
  - 7:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight service with Communion, Music & Candle Lighting
- December 25 Merry Christmas Office Closed

## Opportunities This Week

12/8 Sunday	10:00 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. U of L Sunday classes 1:00 p.m. Brass Rehearsal (S) 3:00 p.m. LOL Youth (YR)
12/9 Monday	Bible Study & Small Groups check with your facilitator 6:00 p.m. Worship Committee (CO) 7:00 p.m. Trustees (CO)
12/10 Tuesday	9:30 a.m. Stroke of Hope (FH) 10:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study (LCR) 12:00 p.m. Rug Hookers (FH) 12:00 p.m. Men's Out to Lunch Bunch, Roadside Restaurant 1:00 p.m. Computer (CO) help with cell phones, computers, etc. 6:30 p.m. AA Closed Session (FH) 7:00 pm Flute 7:30 p.m. Alanon (LCR)
12/11 Wednesday	10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (FH) 3:00 p.m. Joyful Ringers (S) 7:00 p.m. Handbell (S)
12/12 Thursday	7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal (S) 7:30 p.m. Alanon
12/15 Sunday	10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship (FH) 11:30 a.m. U of L Sunday classes Adult and Children (LCR & CCR) 1:00 p.m. Brass Rehearsal (S) 4:00 p.m. Christmas Concert

CO—Church Office FH—Fellowship Hall SG—Small Group Room  
LCR—Large Class Room S—Sanctuary CCR-Children's Class Room—YR LOL Youth Room—

Fellowship Hall is east of the Sanctuary at the end of the education wing  
Classrooms are located on the north and south sides of the education wing

**Attendance**  
**Last Sunday**  
**126**