

**OUR MISSION:** To make new disciples of Jesus Christ

**OUR VISION:** To reach out and invite our neighbors to  
Encounter God · Grow in Faith · Serve in Christ's Love

**ENCOUNTER GOD**

**Youth Group:** Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to meet at 6:30pm Wednesdays.

**Holiday Hiatus:** The Ladies' Quilters and Pastor Ruth's Bible Study will not be meeting until the first week of January. Have a safe and blessed holiday!

**GROW IN FAITH**

**Christmas Eve Worship:** The worship service on Christmas Eve will be held at 7:00pm. You are welcome and encouraged to invite family and friends to join in the celebration.

**SERVE IN CHRIST'S LOVE**

**Budget:** The 2019 Church Budget has been approved by the Leadership Team and is available for review. Copies are in the hanging display outside the church office.

**Holiday Office Hours:** Mary will be in the office...

9:00am – 2:00pm Wednesday & Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

9:00am – 2:00pm Wednesday & Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

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**Advent Reading**

Let Advent remind us to set aside time this Christmas season to quietly reflect on the promise of the baby born in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago.

Week 4 People who shared Jesus' love

Dec. 23: Matthew 2:1-12

Dec. 24: John 3:16

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**1st Corinthians 13  
(A Christmas Version)**

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I am just another decorator. ++ If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook. ++ If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing. ++ If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on those I love the most, I have missed the point. ... In other words,

Love stops the cooking to hug a child

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endure all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust. But the gift of love will endure.

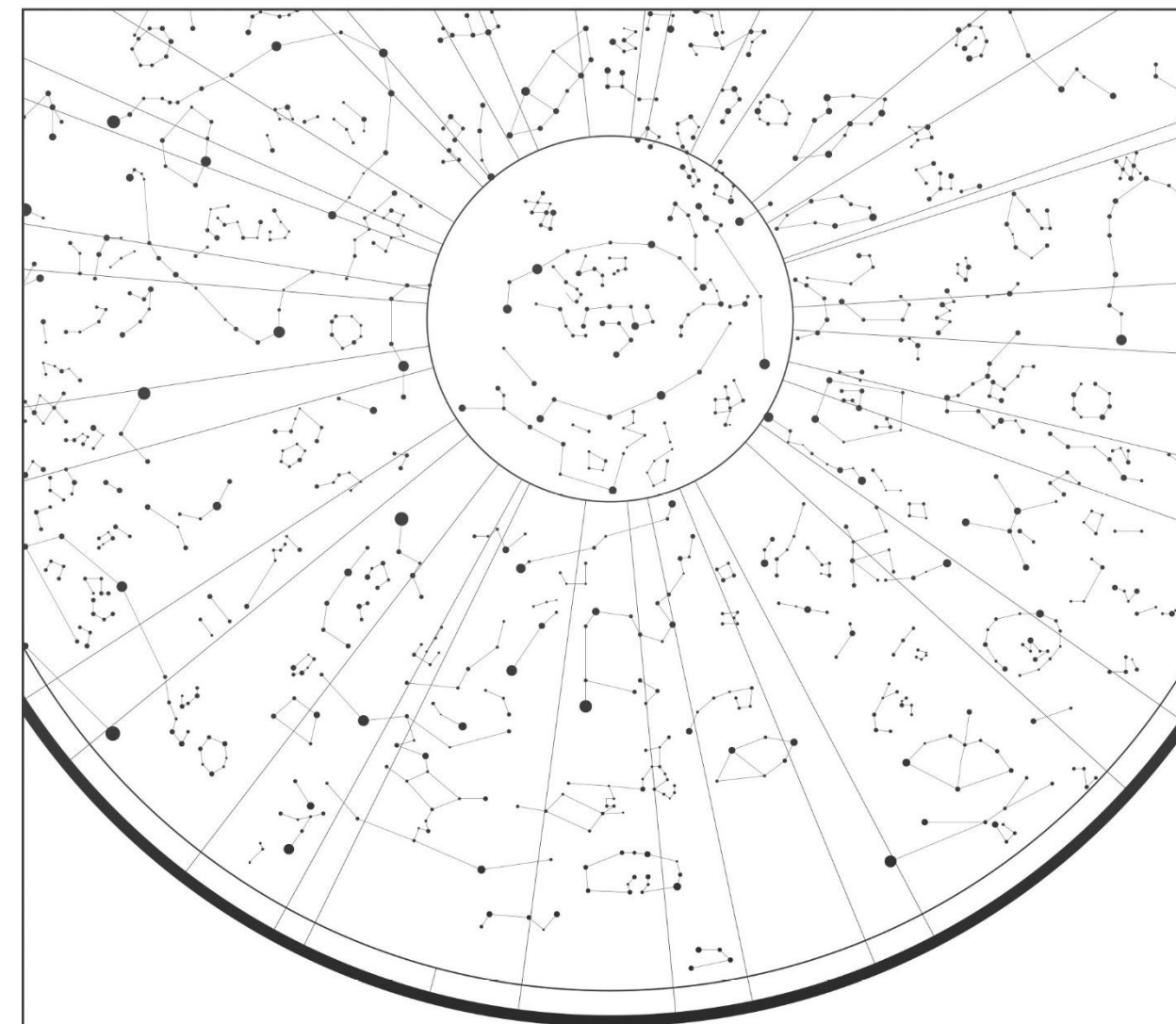
**SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

Worship Assistant – Ellen Avey; Praise Team Leader – Travis Ware

Pianist – Jeffrey Wine; Acolyte – Hunter; Sound Tech – Jonathan Trivette

Welcoming Hosts – Sherrill Courtney & Matt Ellis

Nursery Care – Christy Garner & Hillary Grove



# PREPARE THE WAY

ADVENT TO EPIPHANY

**The State Line United Methodist Church**

287 East Ave. · P.O. Box 277 · State Line, PA 17263 · 717-597-4217

Pastors Kristopher R. Sledge & Ruth Hollister

www.statelineumc.com · statelineUMChurch@gmail.com

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 23, 2018

### Words of Welcome & Parish News

### Spirit Flame

#### \*\* Praise Songs

*"Even So Come"*

Praise Team

*"Spirit Fall"*

Praise Team

**Hymn:** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," stanza 1, *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 196

**All [sung]:** "Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;

Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart."

Pastor: God our shepherd, you chose a humble woman to bring your Messiah into the world, one who will bring us security, joy, and peace.

Worship Assistant: God, even children in the wombs of their mothers recognize you and delight in your presence.

**All: We, God's people, sing with Mary, "the mighty one has done great things for me. Holy is his name. He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God." (Luke 1:49-50, CEB)**

Pastor: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this peace candle in joyful anticipation of welcoming Christ's coming.

Worship Assistant: *Light three purple and one pink candle.*

**All [sung]:** "Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;

Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart."

### Time of Prayer (ending with the Lord's Prayer)

### Giving of Our Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

#### \*\* Hymn of Thanksgiving

*"Glory Be to the Father"*

Hymnal #71

#### \*\* Prayer of Thanksgiving

#### \*\* Hymn of Centering

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

Hymnal #230

### Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

### Children's Chat

### Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-45

### Message

#### \*\* Closing Song

*"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

*(You are welcome at the altar for prayer or blessing during these songs.)*

Hymnal #196

#### \*\* Benediction

\*\* Please stand, as you are able in body and spirit.

## MESSAGE NOTES

Prepare the Way

Advent 4: "Welcome"

Pastor Kristopher Sledge

Ask God to speak to you during worship. Listen to the music, listen to the Scripture, listen to the preaching, listen to the prayers and listen to the quiet of your heart. What thought, idea, challenge or invitation jumps out at you? Just one thing. Not five things. Just one. Write it down here, then spend this week praying about how you can live it out:

### Next Week's Scripture Readings

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

**Luke 2:1-20**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** 9:00 a.m. **FELLOWSHIP TIME** 10:00 a.m.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP** 10:15 a.m.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Admin. Asst. Mary Thomas · 717-597-4217 · statelineUMChurch@gmail.com

### OUR FAITHFULNESS LAST WEEK

Attendance: 63, Tithes & Offerings: \$2208.00