

ANNOUNCEMENTS: WEEK OF DEC 5



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT Sunday, December 12, 11:00 AM. Join us as Children's Chapel kids in PreK – 6th grades present this year's Christmas pageant, "The First Christmas." A special coffee & cookies fellowship time will be held in the Wing in the Woods for the congregation, immediately following worship, while the Sanctuary is set up for the program. We'll reconvene in the Sanctuary at 11:00am for their presentation.



ALPHA IS COMING Make plans to join our Alpha program on **Wednesdays starting January 5th!** We'll meet for dinner around 5:45 pm and end at 8 pm each week through March 9th. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of faith in an open and informal environment. EVERYONE is welcome, no matter where you are in your faith journey! Want to learn more? Plan to stay for a preview video right after worship on Dec. 19 or Jan. 2! Sign up on the entryway board or at www.polkcityumc.org/grow



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED As we are actively searching for paid childcare attendants, we need to begin providing childcare as early as Christmas Eve. We need two adults or one adult and one youth (age 16 & up) each time the Nursery is kept, in compliance with our Child & Youth safety policy. If you would be willing to serve occasionally in the Nursery please sign up on the entryway board or at www.polkcityumc.org (Must be certified through our child/youth safety training)



UMW WINTER DONATION DRIVE Bring in winter mittens, gloves, hats & scarves of all sizes for the NP Comet Cupboard food pantry ministry. Place in the red barrel in church entryway.



WELCOME GUESTS! If you are visiting, please stop by the Welcome table to fill out a Connect Card and pick up a Welcome Bag!

#LOVELIKEJESUS TUMBLERS can be purchased for \$10 at the Welcome Table (each purchase covers the cost of a free tumbler for our guests)



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**NOVEMBER 28, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



CONTACT US: Melody Webb, Pastor: melody.webb@polkcityumc.org or 314.630.0768
Lauren Wilken, Children & Youth Director: lauren.wilken@polkcityumc.org

1421 W. Broadway St, Polk City, IA 50226
polkcityumc.org | [Facebook.com/polkcityumc](https://www.facebook.com/polkcityumc)

GATHERING SONG

“Forever Reign”

WELCOME/CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS

www.polkcityumc.org/online-worship

Please record your presence in the Facebook comments or the website attendance card

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Rob Cupp

Leader: If life was a home, then we would pray—

People: May love be the foundation. May God be the cornerstone. May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in. And may hope be the walls—holding us together.

Leader: In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

People: We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.

Leader: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

People: Let us worship Holy God.

SONG OF PRAISE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 1-3)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

CANDLE-LIGHTING CAROL

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (vs. 2)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, when John was born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it. We forget that in the beginning we were made good. We doubt that we could possibly be enough. We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection. We deflect words of praise. We hide behind shiny first impressions. Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job. Open our ears as you open our hearts, so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

SCRIPTURE READING

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:57-80 (NRSV)

SONG OF REFLECTION

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Children age 3 & up invited to follow ministry leaders for children’s chapel; they return during closing song

SERMON

“Laying the Foundation”

Pastor Melody Webb

OFFERING OUR PRAYERS & PRESENCE

Turn to a neighbor to share joys and concerns; submit prayer requests on the Connect Cards

Online prayer Requests can be submitted in the Facebook comments or the Attendance Card on our website

www.polkcityumc.org/online-worship

PASTORAL PRAYER / 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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS

Your gift in-person, by mail or mobile device, or online at www.polkcityumc.org/give supports the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church. Thank you for your extravagant generosity! Find this week’s announcements on the back side of the bulletin, or on our website at www.polkcityumc.org

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, You are our home. You and your goodness are the place we return to, the place we long to lay our head. So today as we offer you these gifts, we pray that you would take this offering and turn it into ministry. Use these gifts to transform the world we live in to better reflect the home you have envisioned for us—a home of peace, a home built on the foundation of love. Gratefully we pray, amen.

SONG OF SENDING

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven”

BENEDICTION

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Advent is about the joy of longing for home – the kind of home that will complete us, the kind of home that will transform the world. It is about helping us remember that we have a mission and a hope. We are people who see God at work in this world, and we are partners in that remaking. We are the disciples who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Worship with us this Advent and Christmas season. **Come home for Christmas!**

- **Sunday Worship, Nov. 28 - Dec. 19, 9:30 AM** (in person & online)
 - **Blue Christmas Worship: Dec. 21, 7:00 PM** (in person & online)
 - **Christmas Eve Worship: Dec. 24, 7:00 PM** (in person & online)
 - **Sunday after Christmas: Dec. 26, 9:30 AM** (ONLINE ONLY)
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