

# Calm & Bright

200 YEARS OF SILENT NIGHT

## Superior United Methodist Church

[448 N Kansas St. Superior, NE 68978-1851]

### Calm and Bright

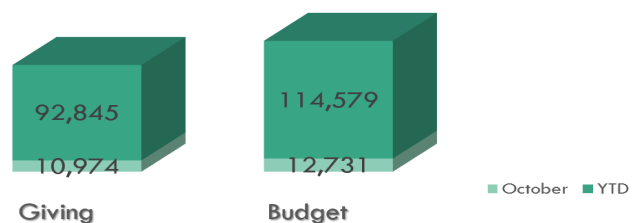
This year is the 200th anniversary of the debut of "Silent Night, Holy Night." This hymn has become the best-loved moment of many Christians—even those who only come to church once a year. Something mystical occurs as we light our candles and sing the hope of "calm and bright"—peace and light for the world.

Beginning December 2nd, join us as we are inspired by the stories of this song and celebrate the renewal of love and light for our time and our communities. The classic hymn, "Silent Night," first made its debut 200 years ago on Christmas Eve, 1818 at the St. Nicholas chapel in Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria. The melody by composer Franz Gruber is instantly recognizable from the first few notes, and the original text by Joseph Mohr has been translated from the original German into over 140 languages. In 1914, just four years shy of the 100th anniversary of "Silent Night," the soldiers fighting World War I along the Western Front held a ceasefire in some areas out of mutual respect for the holiday. Members from opposing sides exchanged gifts and stories with one

another, played games, and sang Christmas carols together, including the beloved hymn "Silent Night." Today, churches all over the world gather together each year on Christmas Eve to join hands, light candles, sing "Silent Night," and participate in a timeless tradition of inimitable ritual power.

"Calm and Bright: 200 Years of Silent Night," was developed for the 200th anniversary of the titular song. Our communities, our churches, and our world are torn and divided about many issues of cultural contention. Families fight, politicians argue, flame wars spread ignorance and hate on the Internet, and sometimes we feel that hope, peace, love, and light are missing from our lives. It is my sincere prayer that this Christmas will be a time of ceasefire from our own sources of conflict. This year, we will raise our voices in song to celebrate the birth of Christ with spirits of peace and love that transcends all barriers.

### Monthly Offering Snapshot For October 2018



### Contact Us

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# Natalie's Notes

It's Christmas. We gather around our trees to exchange brightly wrapped packages and laughter, to make memories that will last for years.

I imagine pulling back the tape, lifting the paper, raising the lid, and here's the gift I see...

YOUR NAME.

You leaving comments that encourage my heart. You reading silently. You



sharing the happy, the hard. When I think of all God has given me this year—my heart overflows when I think of you. *Thank you for being here.*

I have a gift I'll keep giving you too—words, written in love, sent to your heart, surrounded by prayers. *And next time I see you, I'll throw in a hug too.*

## Merry Christmas, dear friends.

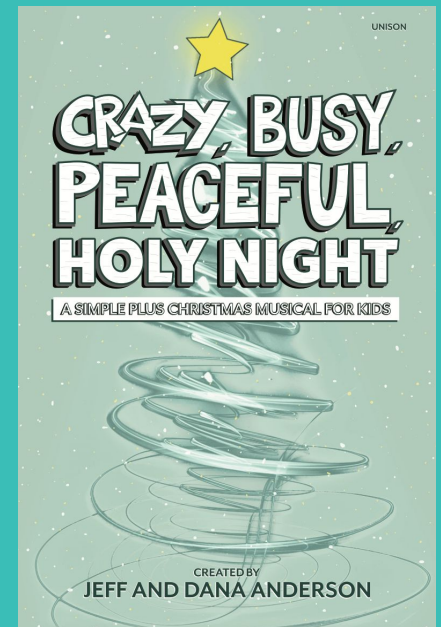
The LORD bless you  
and keep you,  
the LORD make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.  
Numbers 6:24-26  
Blessings,

*Pastor Natalie*

## Children's Christmas Program

These days, Christmas time is often extremely crazy and busy with so many things to do. From parties to shopping, from recitals to exams—it is easy to lose focus on the Prince of Peace that was born in Bethlehem that holy night. Today, our Christmas is not usually quiet, calm or silent. As we read how the story unfolded, we can see that first Christmas was crazy and busy too! Thankfully, Jesus came to bring peace and hope to the chaos in our world.

This musical focuses on a family running in every direction and potentially missing the peace of Christ in the midst of Christmas craziness. Join us in Worship December 9th @ 10:30 as the children of our church





## How to Make Your Advent Wreath

1. Gather all your supplies and prep the area you're using
2. Paint your wooden pieces:
  - a. Paint the ring (the circle base) green
  - b. Paint 3 stars either blue or purple
  - c. Paint 1 star pink
  - d. Paint 1 star white
3. Allow that coat of paint to dry, and add another coat of paint if you'd like
4. Measure your tea lights to see how tall you need to make the strip of construction paper- you can either use your ruler for this or just measure it using the tealight itself (mine were  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch)
5. Cut your construction paper strips at the measured height and 5 inches long to wrap around the tealight
6. Write a word on each strip of paper
  - a. "Peace," "love," and "hope" each on the blue strips
  - b. "Joy" goes on the pink
  - c. "Light" goes on the white
7. Wrap the paper around each of your tealights and secure with tape
8. After your wooden pieces have dried, glue the blue and pink stars around the circle. Make sure that you have enough of the points toward the center of the circle so that the center star can be secured on them.
9. Once they've been given just a minute to dry, glue your white star on the star points in the center.
10. When all your glue has dried, place your tea lights on the corresponding Stars.

### Family Advent Wreath Time Together

Each week or each day, whenever your family gets together (maybe at mealtime), invite your child to light the candles and talk about that week's focus using one or more of the questions/activities below, or come up with your own.

Start by telling (or asking) your child which week it is — peace, joy, love, or hope, and let them find that candle.

Light the candle(s) for the previous weeks and the current week. Encourage your child to light the candle themselves (you may need to give a little guidance on the hidden switch at first). As you light the candle, you can say: "Peace is born." The following weeks, say "Peace is born. Joy is born," and so on, adding the new candle each week.

After the candles are lit, you can say this response together (the same response said in worship):

Fill us with your peace and light, make the world so calm and bright. Then ask one of the suggested questions below for that week. Let your child answer and give them time to ponder. You can also share your thoughts as well. Depending on your child's age and attention span (or just depending on the day they've had) this can be a time of profound conversation, or it could be a time, well, less than profound. When the latter happens, it is ok — give grace in the moment and don't be discouraged. This ritual is all about meeting them where they are, and that day they may just not be there. Don't push them to respond to questions, but maybe

offer a quick thought or example, then go ahead and move to the closing prayer. Come back to it again tomorrow. The repetition and routine of this ritual time together will help with their understanding and can open reflection. When you talk about the question "who needs [peace, joy, love, hope, light]?" You can invite your child to say with you the prayer we use in worship this season: Wrap them in your love so tight,

Guide them with your holy light.

As a close to this time together, invite your child to pray this prayer with you: Go with God into this day. May the Spirit guide your way. Offer [peace, joy, love, hope, light] to all you greet. Like Christ, see God in all you meet.

### Week 1

PEACE – blue or purple

What does peace look like?

What makes you feel peaceful?

Who might need peace?

Have you ever heard a baby cry? What would help bring a crying baby peace?

- Say a prayer for peace in a place that needs peace.
- Do something with your family that makes you feel peaceful.

### Week 2

JOY – pink

What does joy look like?

What makes you feel joy?

Who might need joy?

What would help bring a crying baby joy?

How could you make others joyful?

- Sing a song about joy or that makes you feel joyful.

### Week 3

LOVE – blue or purple

What does love look like?

What or who do you love?

God loves you. How might you know that?

How could we show a crying baby that they are loved?

How could you let others know that they are loved?

- Call or visit someone you love and let them know you love them.

### Week 4

HOPE – blue or purple

What do you hope for?

Is there something you've had to wait a long time for?

Who in the world might need to hear words of hope?

How could you help someone feel hopeful?

- Write a card to someone giving them hope.

### Christmas Eve or Day

LIGHT – white center candle

How are all these candles over all these weeks - hope, love, peace, and joy - all connected?

Do you have a light that helps you when it is dark at night? How does it help?

You are a light in the world - how can you shine your light for others?

## December 2018 Worship Assistants

### **Greeters:**

December 2 - Carole Thompson  
December 9 - Drake Family  
December 16 - Alicea Gentry  
December 23 - Margaret Breen  
December 24 - Jana Marr  
December 30-Sylvia Imhoff

### **Ushers:**

December 2 - Eldon Thompson,  
Steve & Karen Fox  
December 9 - Jeff Guilkey, Joe Wilson,  
Gene Frerichs  
December 16 - Tony Studer, Bill Hamilton,  
Shannon McCord  
December 23 - Danny, Becky & Zak Corman  
December 24 - Phil & Mary Ann Dean,  
Linda Cox  
December 30-Gale Mikkelsen,  
Chad & Zade Hansen

**Counter All Month:** Jana Marr

**Communion Steward:** Judy Corman

### **Sound Technicians:**

December 2 - Beverly Beavers  
December 9 - Sandy Borden  
December 16 - Jeff Guilkey  
December 23 - Jared Ehlers  
December 24 - Angela Garver  
December 30- Marsha Ray

### **Acolytes:**

December 2 -Lilly Edwards  
December 9 - Jocelyn Woerner  
December 16 - Dylan Edwards  
December 23 - Cooper Ehlers  
December 24 - Zak Corman  
December 30-Jordan Duncan

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## Memorial Report

### **In memory of Charleen Adcock**

Gerry Dunlap  
Gale & Nancy Mikkelsen

### **In memory of Larry Langer**

Linda Frerichs  
Gale & Nancy Mikkelsen  
Jason & Emily Ray  
Marlan & Susan Watson

## Calm and Bright

## At-Home Advent Wreath

Created by Shelley Walters, WDS Associate

Note from Marcia: We love to connect what is happening in worship on Sundays at church with ritual at home. This Advent wreath is a perfect way to connect these this season. We've incorporated the simple prayers children will hear in worship into the at-home ritual in hopes that children will be able to participate more fully in the liturgy on Sundays. WDS Associate Shelley Walters has created a "how-to" video for constructing these Advent wreaths and, of course, you will adapt as you need to. Take a selfie of your families and wreaths and post your photos on the Worship Design Studio Facebook page!

This is a new spin on a tradition your family can enjoy together! Using a wooden circle and stars, battery-operated tea lights, some paint, glue, and construction paper, you can create an Advent wreath your whole family can use at home. By using materials that children are accustomed to, as well as the battery-operated (kid-safe) candles, this Advent wreath allows children to fully participate in this ritual and incorporate this holy work into their play.

### **Supplies**

- 1 Six-inch Wooden Floral Ring
- 4 Small Wooden Stars (large enough for tealights to sit on)
- 5 Battery-operated Tealights - (Get a bulk pack of 36 for your children's program)
- Kid-safe Paint - green, pink, white, and either blue or purple (whatever your church uses for the Advent season)
- Paint Brushes
- Whatever you need to keep your space and kids clean (tablecloth, smock, old shirt, paper towels, etc.)
- Paper - pink, white, and either blue or purple (whatever your church uses for the Advent season)
- Wood or All-Purpose Glue
- Marker or Crayons
- Scissors
- Clear or double-stick tape
- Ruler (though you could measure using the tealights themselves)

**Continued on next page.**



## Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE  
@ 7 O'CLOCK P.M.

## Anniversaries

December 19th- Troy and Marilyn Hayes

December 20th-Ron and Dee Thompson

Stuart and Mary Tietjen

December 29th-John and Marsha Ray

## Birthdays

Dec 5th-Jenna Langer

Dec 8th-Bentley Duncan

Dec 9th-Kayden Sheely

Dec 11th-Cathy Ray

Dec 12th-Jorgia Isaacson

Dec 13th-Holly Beavers

Dec 18th-Esther Martin

Dec 21st-Randy Williams

Dec 24th-Linda Crosier

Dec 26th-Kelcey Knoell

Dec 27th-Quentin Knoell

Dec 29th-Lexi Webber

Dec 30th-Todd Kroeger



## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 9th @ 10:30 Service!  
No Early Service

# What's Happening this Month?

## December Calendar

**Saturday Dec. 1st:** UMW Potluck @ 12 p.m.

**Monday Dec. 3rd:** Redemption of Scrooge  
Advent Study

@ 1 p.m. OR 6 p.m.

**Monday Dec. 10th:** Redemption of Scrooge  
Advent Study

@ 1 p.m. OR 6 p.m.

Bingo @ Good Sam @ 2p.m.

**Tuesday Dec. 11th:** Commodities @ 10 a.m.

**Thursday Dec. 13th:** Chapel @ Good Sam  
@ 10 a.m.

Chapel @ Kingswood  
Court @ 4 p.m.

**Saturday December 15th:** Men's Breakfast  
@ Webber UMC @ 8:00 a.m.

**Sunday Dec. 16th:** Parsonage Open House  
@ 4:30-7:00 p.m.

**Monday Dec. 17th:** Redemption of Scrooge  
Advent Study

@ 1 p.m. OR 6 p.m.

**Tuesday Dec. 18th:** SPRC @ 6 p.m.

AdCo @ 7 p.m.

Happy Time Preschool  
Christmas Program

@ 7 p.m.

**Monday Dec. 24th:** Candlelight Christmas  
Eve Service @ 7:00 p.m.

**Office Closed Dec. 24th-26th & 31st-Jan 1st.**

## Weekly Groups

**Mondays-**Yoga 7 p.m.

**Wednesdays-**Needle Huddle 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
Confirmation 7 p.m.

## Sunday Funday Leaders

December 9th-Leader: Beverly Beavers

Helper: Program! Everyone Help!!

December 16th-Leader: Beverly Beavers

Helper: Jana Marr

**No Sunday Funday Dec. 23rd or 30th!!**

First United Methodist Church  
448 N Kansas St.  
Superior, NE 68978-1851

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

# *The Herald*

1 December 2018

## What's Up at FUMC?

- Natalie's Notes
- Reports
- Calendars
- Announcements

Design by  
*Jaimey Bryant*

