ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Bringing People to Christ and Christ to People"

November 29, 2026 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE (Please prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

WELCOME – *A hearing assistance system and large print materials are available. Please see an usher.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Please rise in body or spirit.)*

Leader: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth!

People: Stir up your might, O God, and come to save us!

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts.

People: Let your face shine upon us, that we may be saved!

HYMN *Awesome God* **FWS 2040**

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY: The Light of the Promise based on Matthew 1: 1–5

"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram…" (Matthew 1:1–3)

Through generations of waiting, shifting empires, unexpected turns, and quiet faithfulness, God kept His promise. Long before the manger in Bethlehem, God was already weaving a story of rescue. As we step into the

darkness of winter and the beginning of Advent, we remember that hope does not start with us—it is a gift handed down through a long line of God's grace. [2, 3, 4]

Today, we light the first purple candle of the Advent wreath—the Candle of Hope. *(The first purple candle is lit)*

ALL: God of our ancestors, thank you for the steady trail of grace that leads through history straight to our door. As we watch and wait in this season of quiet preparation, kindle hope in our hearts. Teach us to trust your timing, honor your faithfulness, and carry your light into the dark places around us. Through Christ, who is our beginning and our end. Amen.

LIGHTING RESPONSE *O Come, O Come* **UMH 211(v 1)**

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY** **UMH 95**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***BLESSING THE OFFERING**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who are 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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

HYMN *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* **UMH 196**

SCRIPTURE Summary of **Joshua 2:1–21**

MESSAGE "Room, When Pressure is Closing In"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION All:

Gracious Lord, we confess our willingness to be loved, but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love, but also our own refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love, but also our resistance to following you without question.

In this first week of Advent as we wait in hope, forgive our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew by your Spirit and help us to watch and wait for your light. Amen.

HEALING SERVICE **UMH 35 section 8 and 9**

HYMN *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*(vs1–3) **UMH 218**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *Emmanuel, Emmanuel 2x's* **UMH 204**

EXTINGUISHING ALTAR CANDLES

POSTLUDE

Music Director: Mike Nelson
Videographer: Roger Vandegrift

O come,

O come,

Emmanuel

St. John's United Methodist Church
312 East Main Street, P.O. Box 236
Fruitland, Maryland 21826
410-742-5592
stjohnsfruitland@gmail.com
www.stjohnsfruitland,org
Pastor Shannon Harris
Cell: 410-777-0162
E-mail: pastorshannon@stjohnsfruitland.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, December 15— CHURCH DINNER 4:00 PM at Bury Diner.
BOOK STUDY—This Advent, Pastor Shannon will lead a book study on "A Case for Christmas" by Lee Strobel. We have ordered 10 books and will set the dates and times based on interest. Please email or text Pastor if you are interested. Thank you in advance!
GOD'S KITCHEN lunch packing—9AM Saturday, December 19.
December 20—CHRISTMAS SHOP FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS after service. Wrappers are needed to help kids wrap their presents.
MISSIONS MEETING—December 13 after the service.
FRUITLAND BAPTIST FOOD BANK — Monthly requests include canned soups, canned meats, canned fruits, boxed juices, spaghetti sauce, toilet paper, and size 3–4 diapers (due the first Sunday of the month).
PRAYER CHAIN — Call or text Pat Kern at 443-783-6423.
SOCIAL HOUR — See Buddy Pennewell or Cathy Grim to help.

Connect with us on the web: www.stjohnsfruitland.org	

	Tithely Giving is now available through our website to provide another way for you to support the work of St. John's. Just click the "GIVE" button on the homepage, or use this QR with your phone camera.