

ORDER OF WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 28, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Helen R. Oates

Prelude

Bonnie Leonhart

***Choral Introit**

Joy to the World Verse 1

by Congregation

***Call to Worship**

Now that the mad rush is over, O center of stillness and peace:

Now that the needles are falling from the tree,

We thank you that you are still God-with-us.

As we face the year ahead, help us to accept the difficult parts of our lives;

help us to make the changes we must make;

bring us to new places of openness and love toward you and the people around us.

***Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234

Opening Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, with great love and power you say to us on this last Sunday of the year—"The past is forgiven." What we were, our sin and failures are no more, confronted by your grace. Your forgiveness covers our hang-ups with religion. But your comforting and redeeming presence allows us to feel loved. And your love says to us "The Future is Open". In the coming new year, melt us and mold us according to your will. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9

Susan Woods

Words for the Young At Heart

Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Bold print indicates words spoken in unison.

* indicates places where you may stand as able.

Special Music

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Woods & Leonhart

music by Lewis Redner and arranged by Jack Shrader for flute and piano

***Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 2:13-23

Sermon

"Joseph's Dreams"

Pastor Helen

***Hymn**

The First Noel

Verses 1 & 2

UMH 245

Offertory

Bonnie Leonhart

Thank you for continuing to support the ministries of Stout Memorial.

Those joining us online can take time to give as well. Giving can be done on our website at www.stoutmemorial.org/give.

***Doxology**

UMH 94

***Prayer of Dedication**

Thank you, God of love, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us, for the sake of all your children everywhere. Amen.

***Hymn**

Away in a Manger

UMH 217

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Bonnie Leonhart

UMH—United Methodist Hymnal (*red hymnal*)

FWS—The Faith We Sing (*black hymnal*)

Congregational Appreciation

The Altar Guild is thankful for all who have given flowers in honor or in memory of those in their lives. Thank you for making our church look extra special for Christmas.

Please take your sponsored flowers home with you!

If you would like to help place flowers on the Altar, consider a donation to the flower fund. The altar guild would like to invite you to sponsor the altar flowers. Each vase costs \$25. When you sponsor the altar flowers, you may do so in memory or in honor of someone or a special event or anniversary. Go to stoutmemorial.org/altarflowers for more information.

The Stout Memorial Altar Flower ministry needs smiling faces to deliver Sunday flowers. A sign-up sheet is on the welcome desk in the Gathering space along with directions for delivery. Presenting flowers helps to create smiles.

Our Mission:

We exist to see all people find Hope, Healing, and Wholeness through Jesus Christ.

Slaughter of the Innocents

Given Herod's well-known unpredictability and cruelty, modern historians often find it entirely plausible that he would order the killing of a small number of children in a rural region like Bethlehem. The relatively low population of Bethlehem at the time might have yielded a small number of victims—thus not attracting widespread attention or official record in other historical works. Nevertheless, the historical record of Herod's violent reign corroborates the manner of tyrannical behavior seen in Matthew's Gospel.

Download our church app!
Scan this QR code to download the Stout Memorial UMC app.



How

STOUT MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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**Then Joseph Got Up,
took the child and his mother by night,
and went to EGYPT.**

Matthew 2:14, NRSV

December 28, 2025—Traditional Worship 10:45 AM

Ministers

The congregation

Pastor

Helen R. Oates

Ministers through Music

Terri Bush ~ *Choir Director*
Bonnie Leonhart ~ *Organist*

Ministers Through Service

Andrew Mommessin ~ *Sound Coordinator*
Sarah Sisson—*Communications Director*
Danny Stemple—*IT Specialist*