**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Jeff McDowell

**Pastor’s Email:** [pastorjeffmcd@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorjeffmcd@yahoo.com)

**Music Director:**  David Peckham

**Liturgist:** Angela DiPetta

**Greeters:** Nancy & Dave Kallenborn

**Ushers:** Pauline LeShure; Ande Tubbs; Carolyn Ryan; Norma Whatman;

Carol Crandell

**Secretary:** Sandy Crane

**Church Phone:** (607) 739-1943

**Email:** [office@horseheadsumc.org](mailto:office@horseheadsumc.org)

**Production Team**: Larry Crandell, Bob Aiello, Bob & Jamie Olcott

**Production Team e-mail:** production@horseheadsumc.org

**Check us out on our Web site, Sundays at 9:30am**

\*Facebook: Horseheads United Methodist Church

\*You Tube: Hh 1st United Methodist Church

**Sermon Theme:**

When the angel comes to Mary, her spontaneous song is filled with promise and joy. Just look at her wonder – filled song.

1. FOCUS: PERSONAL LIFE – CHANGE. First, she is so overjoyed for herself because of the call of God. She is glad to be chosen, but more - so, glad that she can be a handmaiden of the Lord, serving God in this way. (vs. 46-49)
2. FOCUS: GOD’S NATURE. Second, she recites evidence of God’s mercy in the past and his mighty deeds of justice for the poor and weak. (vs.50-53)
3. FOCUS: THE PEOPLE’S HERITAGE. Third, she remembers the acts of God in the history of Israel, and lists God’s promises to the patriarchs, which are now coming to fulfillment in her lifetime. (vs. 54-55)

If it could happen to Mary, it could happen to you. God’s love comes to you personally, expecting a response of thanks and praise. Will you sing for God?

A book with a lit candle

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***“ Working Together with All to Connect to God’s Love”***

**First United Methodist Church of Horseheads**

**December 22 , 2024**

**4th Sunday of Advent, Year C**

**Greeting and Announcements**

{as this service begins, please use the white prayer cards on the pew-back in front of you if you want something read aloud from the pulpit. During our first hymn, the Ushers will collect cards to be read aloud.}

**Prelude**: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Jeanne Cotter

**\* Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles**

**\*Hymn:** All Earth is Waiting vs. 1 & 2 #210 UMH

**Unison Prayer:**

**Joys and Concerns** Chad Miller

**Silent Prayer**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer (on screen)** p.#895

**Gift of Music:** Kumbaya                                  arr. Paul Sjolund

**Young Disciples Time**

**Reader One:** When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah…from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O Horseheads, from you shall come forth for me…” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

**Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.**

**Reader Two:** We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all the waiting world.

**Light all four candles of the Advent wreath.**

God of the impossible and unlikely, God of pregnant old women and expectant young Mary, you turn our conventional world upside down! Here in the coming of the Savior, the hungry are fed and the arrogant rich are turned away. Here a way is made in the wilderness and streams flow in the dry desert. Here dreams and visions come true when your people follow in your footsteps and do the deeds of God. Instill in us a vision for miracles. Make us expectant with wonder through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen

**Joys and Concerns**

**Silent Prayer**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer (on screen)** p.#895

**Gift of Music:** Breath of Heaven Eaton & Grant

**Young Disciples Time**

**Scripture: Luke 1:39-45** p.#57

Leader: The word of God for the people of God

*People: Thanks be to God!*

**\*Hymn:** My Soul Gives Glory #198 UMH

**Scripture: Luke 1:45-55** p.#57

Leader: The word of God for the people of God

*People: Thanks be to God!*

**Sermon: Mary’s Song**

**Offering**

**Offertory Music:** On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist Cries C.S. Lang

**Doxology**

**\*Hymn:** People Look East#202 UMH

**Benediction**

**Postlude:** Fantasay on ‘Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus’ Charles Callahan

[Please feel free to be seated and enjoy the Postlude]

\*indicates please stand, if able UMH = red hymnal FWS =   black songbook

**Announcements Dec 22, 2024**

*Welcome to Worship today! If you are visiting today with us, please stop by the visitor’s table just outside the sanctuary. There is a gift bag there for you!*

**Sunday School: 10:45am**, Sunday School: Grades k-8 Fellowship Hall, Sr. High-Class Rm 18, Parent Class-Rm 21, Adult *Sunday School*, Large Conference Room, *Choir Practice* each Saturday at 3pm, CR

**Sun. Dec. 22nd**: Soup to Go, turkey & rice and/or lasagna soup, Kitchen.

10:45am, Candlelighter’s Rehearsal (Teens), Sanctuary

**Tues. Dec. 24th**: Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Tuesday, December 24th

at 7:00 pm

**Sunday, Dec. 29th**: Student Sunday: A special offering will be collected on

December 29th.

**Just a friendly reminder!** The church office will be closed from December 22nd to 26th.

**A check** from Vanguard has arrived in the church mail; however, it lacks any identifying information regarding the sender. Please contact the church office at 607-739-1943 so we can ensure these funds are allocated to the correct account.

**Stewardship.**  There are a number of different giving opportunities in December.  To ensure your gift is applied correctly, please indicate the following on your check or envelope:

 Staff Gift   Monetary gift to our staff recognizing their 2024 efforts and accomplishments.

 Christmas - Giving   Outreach Christmas Giving Tree

 Christmas - Church   Christmas gift to support church operations.

 Christmas - LEF   Christmas gift to our Living Endowment Fund

**Our church is blessed to have a devoted staff**.  They give of their time and talents to ensure jobs well done.  Our staff consists of Pastor Jeff McDowell, Music Director, David Peckham, Secretary, Sandy Crane, Parish Visitor, Cindy Ellis, Superintendent of Buildings, Jamie Olcott, and Lullaby Room, Sarah Woodard.  Please put your donation in the collection plate. Your generosity is appreciated.  Your Staff Parish thanks you, Brent Arnold, Fred Daniels, John Young, Gordon Gillette, Ann Rouse, Jan Przybylski, Christina Peklak.

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**Living Endowment Fund In Honor/Memory of**

Our Grandchildren, Rylynn Augustine and Liam Loomis

Our Parents, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Augustine and Mr. & Mrs. William Hagios

My Parents, Ruth and Larry Chase

Donald & Mary Campbell; Jay Crane

Hope Mayhew

My Parents, Jim & Mary Jane Neish

Donald Peterson

Jan & Jerry Przybylski

Leslie Vaughn

**POINSETTIAS**

**In Celebration of the Lives of/In Memory of/In Honor of:**

Marilyn Mullaney

Alberta & Bill LeShure; Donald LeShure

Pauline LeShure

Robert Joralemon; Thomas Brown

Thomas Brown

Barbara J. Harvey

David Hillman; Heather Zoller

Dorothy Burdette; Rev. Carl Ames

Joseph & Roberta Patocka; Ellen Hunt

Floyd & Ruth Peck

Lily & Luci Ellis; Kimber & Brody Knowlton

Roberta (Bobbie) Olcott

Jack Coombs; Wanda Coombs

Our parents from Dalton & Myrna Flatt

Our loved ones from Robert & Betsy Solsky

Eva Annetta; Merle Coher

The Hauptman Family

Our parents from Dave & Ann Rouse

Emerson & Joan Kline; Ron & Sandy Gallagher

Russell Colvin; Lawrence Brown; Judith Brown

Our deceased family members from John & Cathie Gunselman

Rev. Margaret Peary; Richard Davies

Ruth E. Berg; Mary E. Smith

Walter & Elizabeth Madison

In celebration of the lives of Gerald & Doris Krysiak; Emanuel & Anna

Krysiak; Ray Krysiak and George & Isadore Parks from Matt & Angela

DiPetta; Todd & Brendalyn Keefer; Colleen Krysiak & Diane Strawser

In celebration of the lives of Matthew N. DiPetta and Dennis DiPetta

from Matt & Angela DiPetta

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A close up of a flower

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