

# Banning United Methodist Church

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

## GATHERING

**SPECIAL MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP**

Cathy Mauge

**WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS**

Dan Mabey

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Dan Mabey

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor Doug

## WORSHIP OF GOD

**PRELUDE**

Cathy Mauge

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Dan and Rev. Janice Mabey

**Hope Candle**

**Reader:** From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah" (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

**Congregation:** While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.

**Reader:** We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God's kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

**†CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dan Mabey

L: Wait for God.

**P: We wait for the promise of a new life.**

L: Wait for God.

**P: We wait for the promise of security.**

L: Wait for God.

**P: We wait for God's love to be born anew.**

L: God's love is everlasting.

**P: God's promises are true.**

**†OPENING HYMN**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

UMH #196

**†OPENING PRAYER**

Dan Mabey

**God of every season, as we begin our journey through advent, turn our hearts toward You. Guide us into the realm of peace and joy. Teach us to set aside our worries as we walk in faithfulness and trust. May the love within us be born anew. Help us remain alert so that we may respond to pain and suffering and notice the signs of abundant life around us. Come, Lord Jesus, come to us now, we pray. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Dan Mabey

Jeremiah 33:14-16 NRSV

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Pastor Doug

Luke 21:25-36 NRSV

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** "Security Alert!"

Pastor Doug

**PRAYERS**

Pastor Doug

CHILDREN IN PRAYER (After each slide: In Your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer)

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Dan Mabey

**OFFERTORY**

Cathy Mauge

†**DOXOLOGY** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Dan Mabey

**We thank You, God, for the joy we feel this day. We are blessed by this community that blesses us with love and this sanctuary of acceptance. We trust in You, knowing that You care for us, and we offer our gifts to You. Center our hearts during this season of giving. Amen.**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION****SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II**

Hymnal Page 12

**COMMUNION HYMN** "One Bread, One Body"

Hymn #620

**SENDING FORTH**

†**CLOSING HYMN** "Be thou My Vision"

UMH #451

**DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**†**BENEDICTION**

Pastor Doug

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST OUT INTO THE WORLD