

*First United Methodist Church*



*Pastor Chris Hardy*

**December 9, 2018**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**Worship 11:00**

**Greeting & Announcements**

**Gathering Meditation**

Who can endure the day of his coming? Who can withstand his appearance? He is like the refiner's fire or the cleaner's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver. He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. They will belong to the LORD, presenting a righteous offering. – Malachi 3:2-3 (CEB)

**Prelude & Lighting of the Candles**

*Holy One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.***

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: The Lord has looked with favor on His people.

**People: Praise the Lord!**

Leader: A messenger of peace will be sent to us.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Leader: The messenger will place peace in our hearts.

**People: Come, O Messenger of Peace, we stand in need of your presence.**

**\*Opening Prayer**

**God of promise, you send us messengers to cleanse and refine us for your coming. Help us to hear their message so that we may see you when you appear; in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (v.1)

#211

**Lighting the Advent Candle – Love**

Dave & Diane Capone

Leader: God chooses the most unlikely messengers: a desert, wild-man dressed in animal skins who eats locusts and wild honey; a poor shepherd, shunned by society, that keeps silent watch in the fields; or today, perhaps a school teacher, a police officer, a waitress, a plumber, a laborer; or even a child.

**People: Jesus comes to us, here in Bangor, and across the world for everyone.**

Leader: Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of love. The love of Christ comes from all of us, today in this church and every day of the week wherever the Lord may take us. His love can be realized in the siren of an ambulance, in a letter opened in a prison cell, in a visit to a nursing home, in the embrace of a friend, and in the smile – or cry – of a child.

**Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (v. 2-4) #211

**Children's Message** Pastor Chris  
**† Coins for Kids**

**A Time of Prayer – Sharing our Joys & Concerns**

**\*Hymn** "Angels from the Realms of Glory" #220

**Reading of Holy Scripture** Luke 3:1-6 (NLT)

**Message** "Refiner's Fire" Pastor Chris

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Giving of our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" #95

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**God of all righteousness, receive these gifts of gratitude, the offerings of our lives. Purify them with your refining fire so that they may serve your purposes and shine with your glory; in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** "People, Look East" (v. 1 & 4) #202

**\*Postlude**

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\*Please stand if you are able

†Each Sunday our children will be accepting coin donations that will benefit a ministry or project of their choosing.

Welcome! Thank you for worshipping with us today.

It is our pleasure that you have shared this experience with us. If you are without a church home, we would be delighted to have you as a part of our Church family. Pastor Chris would be happy to speak with you. God bless you and please come again.

Additional parking is available at Merchants Bank, 303 Penn. Ave., on Sundays and non-banking hours.

### **First United Methodist Church**

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### **Pastor Chris Hardy**

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### **Church Office Hours**

Nancy Plowman, Secretary

Tuesday - 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

### **First United Methodist Church Thrift Store**

38 Broadway, Bangor, PA 18013

Telephone: (610) 599-6924

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

#### **Today's Worship Leaders**

**Liturgist:** Nichole Smith

**Organist:** Karen Skorochod

#### **Next Week's Worship Leaders**

**Liturgist:** Craig Acklen

**Lay Leader:** Cheryl Hower