

**Sunday, December 24, 2017**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**



If you are a first-time guest or returning visitor to our church family, please allow us to extend a special welcome to you. We offer an invitation for you to join us in the Parish Hall after worship for coffee, tea, cookies, and a chance to learn more about Old First.

Please take this opportunity to be greeted by our members and be introduced to our Pastor, Matthew Means. We thank you for visiting us today and welcome you to our family of faith!

*Get Connected to Your Church Family at Old First!*



With so many exciting opportunities for us to gather together in worship, fellowship, and service; now more than ever, it is important to “stay connected” to and with Old First! We share information about our ministries by phone, email, and through our website and Facebook page.

If you are not receiving any of these communications from Old First, please contact the church office and provide us with your information! We look forward to getting ... and *staying* ... connected with you!



Sunday night Youth Group is off until **Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>!**

On behalf of Kerry, Amy, and Pastor Matthew ... “thank you” to our youth and their families for a **FANTASTIC** first half of the year!  
Have a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and here’s to next year bringing even more opportunities for us to gather in faith and fellowship!

**ATTENTION KIDS’ & YOUTH CHOIRS:**  
**No Rehearsals until Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Thank you for all of your hard work and effort to close out December with Christmas Eve worship and Christmas Caroling! See you next year!

On behalf of our Old First Church family ... **“THANK YOU”** to all of our children, youth, and adults who led us in worship last week during the annual Christmas Pageant! Your sharing of the Christmas story was a wonderful reminder of the hope, peace, joy, and love of our God!



*Today We Light the Fourth Advent Candle ... LOVE!*

Today is the **Fourth Sunday in Advent**, the time in the life of our faith when we prepare our hearts to receive the gift of God’s **LOVE**, given in Jesus Christ. As we worship each week **AROUND** the themes of God’s **hope, peace, love, and joy**, may each service assure us of the Spirit of God present among us as we prepare to welcome Christ in our lives!

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship*  
*TONIGHT at 5:30 pm AND 11:00 pm!!!*

Please join us for Christmas Eve candlelight worship **TONIGHT at 5:30 and 11:00 pm**. Each service will begin one half hour prior, with special music provided by the Kids’ and Youth Choirs (5:00) and the Sanctuary Choir (10:30).



*The Mitten Tree Is Here!*



During the season of Advent, the children of Church School are once again sponsoring a “Mitten Tree” ... now available in the Parish Hall. You are invited to bring hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves to hang on the tree and our children will donate these items to kids in need! On behalf of our young disciples, thank you in advance for your generous support!

*Mark Your Calendars: Annual Meeting Date Set!*

The Session has set **Sunday, February 11, 2018**, for our annual meeting of the congregation. This special day in our church family is a chance to look back at the year that was while joyfully looking ahead to the coming year. **Start writing your Annual Reports** and make plans to join us for this celebration of ministry in our congregation!



*Survey Says ... IT'S TIME FOR FUN!!!!*

The New Year brings a chance for our church family to have a great night together! Join us on **Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** for a potluck dinner and Family Feud night with our Deacons! **Potluck** begins at **5:00 pm** (bring your dishes to share!) and **Family Feud** kicks off at **6:00 pm!** The cost is **\$8 per person or \$25 per family** as we have a great time raising funds for Deacons’ ministry! Come alone! Bring a date! Invite friends and family!

*The Clothesline Thrift Shop Is Looking For Volunteers!!!*

Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 11 am to 1:30 pm (**especially Thursdays from 1:30 to 4:00!**). Please call the Thrift Shop or let **Susan Worledge** know if you can work occasionally or every week. Clothing donations are received during hours of operation, but you may place donations in the AA Room when the Thrift Shop is closed.

*Sermon Notes for Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
Fourth Sunday in Advent*

***“Do Not Be Afraid!”***

*Key Scriptures:*

*“An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,  
‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your  
wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.’”*

*Matthew 1:20*

*“The angel said to Mary, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found  
favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb  
and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.’”*

*Luke 1:30-31*

*When you consider all of the people, places, and situations  
in this world that invoke a feeling of fear in your life,  
what source(s) of fear have the most power over you?*

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*In Scripture, we are promised that God is perfect love and that  
perfect love casts out any and all fear. What fears in your life is God  
calling you to give to God and allow the love of Christ to overcome?*

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*In a time when fear was a natural response, the angel’s message  
to both Mary and Joseph was clear ... “Do not be afraid!”*

*When it comes to this same message in your life ...  
where are you most in need of choosing love over fear?*

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**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Worship

***Fourth Sunday in Advent — LOVE***

10:20 - 11:00 a.m. Church School (Room 102)

***5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship***  
with special music at 5:00 p.m. (Kids’ & Youth Choirs)

***11:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship***  
with special music at 10:30 p.m. (Sanctuary Choir)

6:15 - 8:45 p.m. AA (Lower Level - Room 10)

**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

***Merry Christmas!***

*Church Office Closed / No Activities in Building*

**Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

*Thrift Store Closed*

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. AA (Lower Level - Room 10)

**Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Gentle Bends (Room 102)

***No Kids’ and Youth Choir Rehearsals  
or Youth Club Activities until January 3<sup>rd</sup>***

7:00 - 9:15 p.m. AA (Lower Level - Room 10)

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 32 (Gym)

**Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

*Thrift Store Closed*

5:00 - 9:30 p.m. Giant Steps (Room 102)

8:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

**Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**

*Thrift Store Closed*

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Al-Anon (Room 101)

**Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**

12:00 p.m. America’s Best Auctioneer Auction (Parish Hall)

**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Worship

***First Sunday after Christmas***

***Baptism of Althea Margaret Folk***

12:00 p.m. America’s Best Auctioneer Auction (Parish Hall)

6:15 - 8:45 p.m. AA (Lower Level - Room 10)