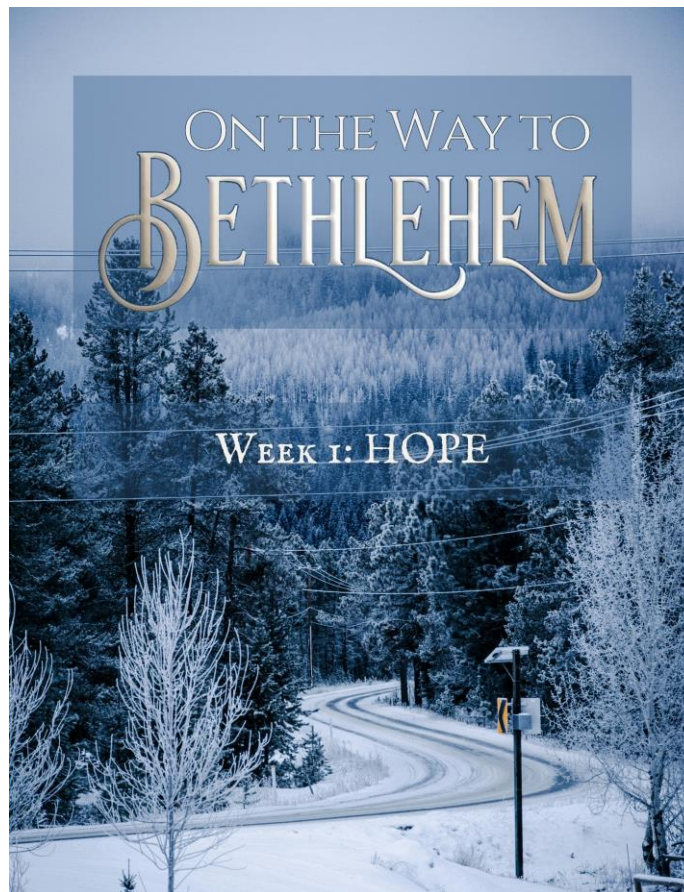


Leominster

United Methodist Church

1st Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2024 | 9:30am



*Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*

77 Hall Street | Leominster, MA | lumcoffice1@gmail.com

978-537-1356 | www.leominsterumc.org

Rev. Michelle Ashley, Pastor

Order of Worship

*Indicates standing as able.

BOLD TYPE indicates words spoken in unison by the congregation.

UMH = *United Methodist Hymnal* | TFWS = *The Faith We Sing*

WE SET OFF (GATHERING)

Prelude “Waiting for
 Messiah” Marcia Bisson
 R. W. Thygerson

Welcome & Call to Worship Pastor Michelle

*Opening “You Are Mine” TFWS #2218
Hymn

Opening Words Pastor Michelle
 Cat Gabriel

Light for the Journey The Abakah Family

*O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth [light candle here]*

*the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.*

*We're on our way (x2)
Dream of the day
When [hope] holds sway
With all the earth
In all our hearts
We're on our way
This is the day.*

Reader(s):

The journey begins, and this candle will help light our way.

We are on our way to more hope.

Decrees and decisions affect our world and our lives as they did in Jesus' day.

We are a people who long for Good News.

There are milestones that guide us to a better day.

God's light goes before us, we are not alone.

Sung reprise as the readers go back to their seats:

*We're on our way (x2)
Dream of the day
When [hope] holds sway
With all the earth
In all our hearts
We're on our way*

This is the day.

Opening Prayer

Cat Gabriel

*The Peace

**THE PLACE AND ITS MESSAGE
(PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS)**

Children's Message

Bob Harrison

Malie Marino

“Little Donkey” is sung as the children come forward

*Little donkey, little donkey
On the dusty road
Got to keep on plodding onwards
With your precious load.
Been a long time, little donkey
Through the winter's night
Don't give up now, little donkey
Bethlehem's in sight.*

1ST Scripture Lesson

Romans 8:18-25

Cat Gabriel

*Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-3

Pastor Michelle

*Gloria Patri

UMH #70

Sermon

Pastor Michelle

**WHAT WE SEE CHANGES US
(RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS)**

Anthem

“One Light Will
Come”

Senior Choir

Frombach/Davis

Invitation to Giving

Cat Gabriel

Gifts Along the Way (Offertory)

Marcia Bisson

*Commitment Cards, Prayer Cards, and Visitor
Information Cards may be placed in the offering
plates along with monetary gifts. See instructions
for online giving on reverse.*

*Doxology

Senior Choir

*Sung to the tune of “Away in a Manger”:
Praise God for these gifts that we offer today
and bless them for good in the world, this we pray.
Praise Jesus, the Christ-child, our Hope and our Stay,
The Spirit, our Keeper, our Guide on the Way.*

*Prayer of Dedication	Cat Gabriel
Prayers of the People	Pastor Michelle
The Lord's Prayer	UMH #895

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

Invitation	Pastor Michelle
The Great Thanksgiving	Pastor Michelle
Responses: UMH #89 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee."	
Breaking the Bread	Pastor Michelle
Giving the Bread and Cup	Pastor Michelle Scott Newcombe
Communion Prayer	Pastor Michelle

MOVING ON (SENDING FORTH)

The Life of LUMC	Pastor Michelle
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*Recessional Hymn	“Hope of the World”	UMH #178
*Benediction		Pastor Michelle
Postlude	“The God of Abraham Praise” L. Smith	Marcia Bisson

“On the Way to Bethlehem” worship series is based on the book by the same title by Rev. Rob Fuquay. The worship series is from Worship Design Studio by Rev. Marcia McFee. “Little Donkey” is written by Eric Boswell. “We’re On Our Way” is written by Rev. Marcia McFee and Chuck Bell.



Please Pray For...

Church Members

Dennis Grammont, cancer & Parkinson’s disease

James Stephen

Malie Marino, chronic health issues

Nancy Dougherty, dementia

Continued prayers for Joyce Barclay for medical issues

Praise for Becky’s pregnancy (Diana Hamilton-Rousseau)

Nancy Erb on hospice

Mark Kauffman with difficult decisions

Steve Dinsmore (& family) praise for good days and strength
& hope for continued healing

*Mel & Don Hutchins to get well quickly

Family and Friends of Church Members

Rebecca Parent (daughter of Maryann Kane)

Leslie, ALS (Edith's niece)

Melissa, cancer (Diana)

Dawnne's mother in law Liz dealing with depression

Yvonne battling pancreatic cancer

Phineas Funk, that he may find his way (The Funk & Gabriel families)

Linda Gilpatrick for reoccurrence of cancer (Sam)

Scott Rankin

Sara and Ellie Kaufmann for healing. (Lynn Ayars)

Jodi & Bill Fowler struggling with chronic illness

Tristan to find his way to improvement (Dawn Prince)

Ruth, leukemia (Leeda Marsh)

Gram Caron & the Caron family as Gram recovers (Evan)

Praise for Bob & Jean Wylie's new great grandson

Healing for Carol, Belinda's daughter in law

Healing for Carol with liver cancer (Mel)

Dulcie Kabia for speedy recovery from stroke while visiting in Sri Lanka

Carol P. to find suitable senior housing (Mel)

Praise for Bob O'Neill, Cancer free (Edith)

Donna for upcoming heart surgery (Don Hutchins)

Prayer for Anna & April to be strong during 1st holiday
without my dad (Dawn Prince)

Michelle, continued healing and total recovery after her
breast cancer surgery (Karen)

*Damon for recovery from addiction & mental health issues

*Dan that his knee heals (Bruce Shaheen)

*Commica who was hospitalized with a mild stroke

Those who are grieving

Galen and Desi Schad's godfather who passed away

Family of Bob Barclay

Family of Marjorie Leach (Mel)

Comfort & strength for the family of Dulcie (Mahen)

Our World

All Nations & people affected by war

All affected by natural disasters

All affected by violence in its many forms

Victims of recent hurricanes

Our Leaders

Bishop Bickerton, D.S. Megan Stowe, Pastor Michelle

All of our civic leaders & elected officials

Give Online



www.leominsterumc.org/give

Give Via Venmo



@lumc-077



Pastor Michelle is available for pastoral care throughout the week. You can often find her in the church office during office hours (Tu-F, 9-2), but if you wish to speak with her, it is best to make an appointment in advance to ensure she is available. She would love to hear from you by email at pastormichelleashley@gmail.com. Please keep in mind that Pastor Michelle honors Monday as her Sabbath day.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

WITH OUR PASTOR



Romans 8:18-25 NRSVUE

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in^[a] hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.



Luke 2:1-3 NRSVUE

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered.