



### Prepare your heart for Christmas this year with a holiday classic!

This year we are going to be spending the seasons of Advent and Christmas with Charles Dickens', *A Christmas Carol*. We'll keep pace with Ebenezer Scrooge as he undergoes a metamorphosis in his heart that transforms him from the quintessential 'scrooge' into a person that arrives upon Christmas Day with a heart that's been made ready to celebrate the birth of Christ in the truest of ways. As you join with, I invite you to consider this story (along with THE story) closely again. In fact, you can read along and even join us in watching the movie! Also, don't forget the daily devotional we'll be using through the season: *God Bless Us Every One: Encountering Christ in Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'*. Pick up your copy at the church. Here's a bit of what else is happening this season around MUMC.

#### Sermon Series: "What the Dickens!?" Preparing for Christmas with a Holiday Ghost Story"

Advent 1 (11/27): "Ghastly and Ghostly Realities (and Where they Point)"

Read Along: *A Christmas Carol*, Stave 1; Matthew 24:36-44

Advent 2 (12/4): "Un-squandering Squandered Pasts"

Read Along: *A Christmas Carol*, Stave 2; Matthew 3:1-12

Advent 3 (12/11): "Checking Into the Christmases that Are Present"

Read Along: *A Christmas Carol*, Stave 3; Matthew 11:2-11

Advent 4 (12/18): "New Possibilities for Christmases Yet to Come"

Read Along: *A Christmas Carol*, Stave 4; Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas Eve: (12/24): "Celebrating Christmas With an Un-Scrooged Scrooge"

Read Along: *A Christmas Carol*, Stave 5; Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Day (12/25): Lessons & Carols (Combined Service at 10:30am)

1st Sunday After Christmas (1/1): "A Dickens of a Choice" (Combined Service at 10:30am)

#### Key Dates:

12/3 (Saturday): MUMC Christmas Fair (9am-1pm)

12/18 (Sunday): MUMC Christmas Concert (4pm)

12/21 (Wednesday): Blue Christmas Service (6:30-7:30pm)

12/24 (Saturday): Christmas Eve Services at 5pm (Contemporary); 7pm (Traditional); and 11pm (Lessons & Carols with Communion)

Get involved in the spirit of giving this Christmas season! Here are some things you can do through the church:

- Sign up to ring bells as a Salvation Army Bell ringer. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.
- Take a tag from the SHARE Giving Tree and make sure that children in need receive the joy of a gift this Christmas.
- Volunteer at the Christmas Fair. Proceeds from the fair go toward church missions.
- Make a donation to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Wanakee camper scholarships, the MUMC Youth mission trip, or toward Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) of New England—a United Methodist legal assistance ministry of our Annual Conference.