

THE UNITED CHURCH

PRESBYTERIAN – AMERICAN BAPTIST

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE: “*Andante*” from *Sonata no. 1* by Josef Rheinberger

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

OUR PREPARATION

Focus of the day: Embrace Advent with anticipation and readiness, not being weighed down by the anxieties of life.

INTROIT: (11:00) “Sovereign Lord” by Tom Fettke (Men’s Quartet)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The night is dark, but the light of Christ shines bright.

People: We lift our eyes with hope and expectation.

Leader: In the storms of life, God is our steady refuge.

People: We come to worship, ready for Christ’s redeeming presence.

All: Come, Jesus, come!

***HYMN: #133** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” CCLI Song #31982, Public Domain, #11593017

***OPENING PRAYER:** Gracious God, we come before You in this season of Advent, longing for Your light to guide us through the storms of life. As we lift our voices in prayer, may our hearts be filled with hope and expectancy for the coming of Your kingdom. As we prepare our hearts, let us join in the prayer Jesus taught us, lifting our voices together in song: **Our Father...**

***HYMN #632: “THE LORD’S PRAYER”**

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

***GLORIA PATRI: #807**

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 25:1-10 (page 545) {A.B. page 619}

ANTHEM: (11:00) “Come, Jesus, Prince of Peace” (words on insert)

by Diane Hannibal and arr. by Brad Nix Men’s Quartet acc Ben Boseck (violin)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (page 1170) {A.B. page 1315}

Sermon

“Living with Urgency and Expectation: Preparing for Christ’s Return”

(Luke 21:25-36)

Pastor Wade Allen

OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH

***HYMN: #135** “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” CCLI Song #31999, Public Domain, #11593017

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY: “*Trumpet Tune on Stuttgart*” by Pietro Cattaneo

***DOXOLOGY: #809**

SPECIAL MUSIC: (11:00) “The Love of God” by F.M. Lehman (words on insert)

Earl Pettit and David Kraft

COMMUNION

***HYMN: #271** “Christ is Coming! Let Creation”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “*Entrée en procession sur l’Adeste fideles*” by Auguste Larriu

** indicates an invitation to stand for those who are able and comfortable doing so.*

The rosebud today is to celebrate the birth of Juliet Lord Mergenthaler on November 25th. Her parents are Derek and JoAnna Mergenthaler and her grandparents are James and Joni Mergenthaler and Virginia Holroyd. Cathy Benedict is her great-grandmother!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Health concerns: Karen Mount, James Sheppard, Linda Gilbert, Jessica Canham (Sharyn's daughter), Mary Jane Laird, Denice Bailey Tautges, Tom Babcock (friend of Jenny Caron), Maverick, Carly, and Jenson Ferrante (family of Ardelle Bigos), Maryanne Fox (friend of Ardelle Bigos), Edwin Gregory (friend of Royal Purdy), Erik Keating (son of Al & Dawn Rossi), Louise Huck, Catherine Kurzdorfer (Adam Thorman's mother), Carolyn Verspoor, Marcus (friend of Sandi DiCicco), Denise Loy (friend of Kory Massey), David Sanford, Jovannie Ramirez (Karen Roaix's grandson), Steve Sedlock (Nancy Tharp's brother), Clancy Cragle (Michelle's grandfather), the Herin Family (relatives of Kathie Meredith), Jack Schermond

Cancer: Jon VanBlargan, Laura Fiorito (daughter of Charles and Patti Cagwin), David Gerstner (Nancy's husband), Ruth Krop (friend of MacKenzie Brown), Tane Robinson (friend of Ryan Marshall), Regina Allen, Christina Tharp (daughter of John and Nancy), Douglas Cook (Jen Eveleigh's brother), Rod Gifford (cousin of Joyce Laursen), Martha Ashley, Beth Smythe, Keith Laursen (Joyce's brother-in-law), Sasha (friend of Megan French), Mark Schreier (Virginia Holroyd's friend), John Tornow (friend of Elaine Allen), Susan Hennessy (Jen Eveleigh's sister), Rich Crowley (Steve & Beth Smythe's friend), Tom & Monica Yurik (Bruce & Deb Gardner's friends), Deb Dawson (Steve Smythe's niece), Roderick Simonds (father of Natalie Clark), Rob Stults (cousin of Wade & Christy Allen), Dawn Miller, David Pagoda (Eveleigh family friend), Jim Davis (Scott's father), Stephen Carges (Paula Traber's brother)

Recovering: Wendy Stoddard, Sara Scharr, Arlene Willett

Comfort and Peace: Harriet Morgan (Megan French's grandma), Mary Zimmerman (Wendy Bacon's mother)

MILITARY SERVICE: JJ Callard (USN) just graduated bootcamp, US Army LT1 Andrew Marlin (Tyler Bosecks husband) home from deployment, LTJG Nick Castiller (USN), MAC Adam Thorman (USN), E6 Cody Wells (USN) home from deployment, TSgt Timothy Peck (USAF)

MISSIONARIES: Carlos Bonilla & Mayra Giovantti – the BGs (Central/South America), Tim & Patti Long (Baja Mexico), Shelvis & Nancy Smith-Mather (S Sudan refugees in Uganda), Ryan & Alethia White (Berlin)

Some more upcoming dates you might want to put on your calendar (watch the Monthly Memo or future Lamplighters for details!):

Dec 6 – Christmas Organ Concert

Dec 14 – Church Game Night

Dec 15 – Christmas Pageant

Dec 15 – FLSO Concert

Highlights for This Week!

- **The Christmas angel tree** is in the Welcome Center and loaded with tags. Please select a tag, purchase the items listed, and return the **wrapped gift *with the tag attached*** by **Sunday, December 8**. Please see Deb Marshall with any questions.
- **Join us on December 15th at 10am** in the Sanctuary for our **Christmas pageant**. The children and youth are excited to present a new Christmas pageant this year. All are invited to come and see!
- **Greeter/Offering Coordinator for December is Bill Fortunato.**
- **We need more nursery volunteers.** If you are interested in serving in the nursery, please see Louise Vanlsegghem or Deb Marshall. All volunteers will need to complete a background check.
- Help brighten the holidays for our Senior Companions (formerly known as Special Members) by writing them a Christmas card! Cards, along with names and addresses, are available in the Welcome Center.
- We will have **ONE service at 11am on Sunday, December 22** and on **Sunday, December 29**. There will be no early service and no Sunday school on these Sundays.
- **2024 Youth Mall Trip** - December 13, 5:30 PM - 10:00 PM - 6-12 grade students. More details can be found on the registration page.
- The **Christmas Organ Concert** is **Friday, Dec 6th**. Details inside!
- **2025 Youth Calendar Fundraiser** - Funds raised will go towards future youth mission trips and experiences. Calendars will be sold out in the Welcome Center after each service (December 1 & 8)
- We need **4 volunteers** to help with **downstairs kitchen clean up** at Youth Club on **Wednesday, Dec 11th**, from approximately **5:30-6:30pm**. We also need **2 volunteers to serve pizza to parents** from **5:15-5:45pm** in the fellowship room. Please sign up on Deb's door if you are able to help.

Nursery care is offered during both services (8:45 & 11:00) and during the Sunday school hour (9:45-10:45) for those too young to attend Sunday school so that parents may attend Adult classes or help in the children's program.

8:45 Service Nursery ~ a combined nursery meets in room 11.

9:45 Sunday school Nursery ~ meets in room 10, the infant nursery.

11:00 Service Nurseries ~ Both the Infant/Toddler Nursery (Room 10) and the Preschool Nursery (Room 11) are available.

Children's Time ~ There is no children's time today. There are worship bags available at the front entrances of the sanctuary for children to use. Please return the bags and reusable contents at the end of the service.. Thank you! We hope you enjoy worshipping as a family today!

ARE YOU VISITING US TODAY? If so, WELCOME to the United Church, we are so glad that you have chosen to worship with us. We invite you to check out our Welcome Table found in our Welcome Center, and to pick up a blue bag for yourself/your family to take home and to learn a little bit more about us. Please fill out a visitor card and drop it in the collection plate or mail in. **We are so happy that you joined us today and look forward to seeing you again soon!**



Faith and Action Our Christmas Joy Offering



On the first Christmas God gave us the perfect gift in Jesus Christ.

Each year, in December, our United Church receives an offering which is used to honor and thank church leaders who have devoted their lives to faithfully guiding us as we strive to follow Jesus. Our church combines the Presbyterian Joy offering, the American Baptist Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering and the America for Christ offering into our one Christmas offering.

As we remember the wondrous works of Christ let us show our love and our thanks by giving generously to our Christmas Joy offering.

You may use the pew envelopes, indicate Christmas offering on your check, or choose the Christmas Joy fund for online giving.

We're excited to announce a fresh name for our cherished special members: They will now be known as **Senior Companions!** This new name beautifully reflects who they are to us—valued friends and companions to our Stewards and our entire church family. **Senior Companions** highlights the special role they play in our congregation and the meaningful connections we share with them. Let's celebrate this change as we continue to nurture these important relationships!

Stewardship

Our stewardship season is underway, and so far we've received **86** pledge forms back with **\$258,557** pledged to Operating and **\$84,574** to Missions. Our goal is to have 130 families pledging. To meet the needs of the proposed 2025 budget, we are hoping to have **\$398,160** pledged to the Operating side. The Missions team forms their budget *after* the Missions pledges come in. Last year they worked with a budget of about \$107,000.

Follow the progress on the FROG poster outside the main office. A mailing went out recently containing the forms, but there are extras in the Welcome Center near the office. You may return forms in the offering plate, in the Welcome Center box, or by mailing them in. You can also make your pledge and/or request envelopes online by following this QR code:



Youth Club - our after school ministry for 2nd-8th graders

Wednesdays, after school - 6:30pm

Our night includes: Recreation, Worship, Bible study, and Family Time (dinner)

Parent Help for December 4th:

Snack - McAlpin

Kitchen Clean up - Abdallah, Hildebrant, Kurtz

Any questions? Please see Deb Marshall

Prayer Prompts

The Boyce Discernment Team has been working throughout the year to carefully discern God's guidance in our stewardship of a significant gift given to the church in the fall of 2023. Currently, the team is in the "listening stage", which has included meetings with ministry teams and others. As part of the listening strategy, the discernment team invites the rest of the church to join in on listening through prayer. Feel free to use the following prayer as a prompt when you pray:

This week's prayer: *Direct us, O Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help. May all our works begin, continue, and end in you, that we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*



Join us for an evening of festive **Christmas music and carols** on **Friday December 6th at 7:00pm** featuring organist Duane Prill with special guests Annette Farrington and Brian Donat. A free-will offering will be received and a holiday dessert reception will follow.

Please see the sign up for baked goods on the office door.

Notes, Doodles, Things you're thankful for...

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____

I would like to order _____ Poinsettias at **\$11.00 each.**

They are given in **memory or honor (circle one)** of:

1. _____

Given by: _____

2. _____

Given by: _____

3. _____

Given by: _____

Please pick up your poinsettia(s) after the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service.

Checks payable to: "The United Church Stewards – Poinsettia"

Place your form and check in the offering plate or mail to the church at 11
Gibson St., Canandaigua, NY 14424

ORDERS MUST BE IN BY **DECEMBER 1st**

Come, Jesus, Prince of Peace **(Men's Quartet)**

Come, O come, Emmanuel, come to us and stay.
Come, O come, Emmanuel, could this be the day?
Jesus, Prince of Peace, hope of all the earth,
Come, O come, Emmanuel, we await Your birth.

Come O come, Emmanuel, joy of heav'n come down.
Come O come, Emmanuel, King without a crown.
Jesus, Prince of Peace, come to guide our way,
Come, O come, Emmanuel, live in us today.

Come O come, Emmanuel, Branch of Jesse's tree.
Come, O come, Emmanuel, set Your children free.
Jesus, Prince of Peace, gentle as a dove,
Come, O come, Emmanuel, Messenger of love.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
Come, O come, Emmanuel, we await Your birth.

The Love of God **(Duet)**

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win.
His erring child He reconciled,
And pardoned from his sin.

Chorus:

O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure –
The saints and angels' song!

2. When years of time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall.
When men who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call.
God's love so sure shall still endure,
All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race-
The saints' and angels' song.

3. Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade.
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Tho' stretched from sky to sky.