

# THE UNITED CHURCH

PRESBYTERIAN – AMERICAN BAPTIST

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE: “*Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel herunter*” by J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

## OUR PREPARATION

Focus of the day: God will one day make all things right...until then we are to grow in love, discernment and righteousness.

INTROIT: (11:00) “Angels from the Realms of Glory” (hymn#174)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: As children wait with joy for Christmas morning,

**People: We wait with hope for Christ's return.**

Leader: Just as God began a good work in us,

**People: He will carry it on to completion.**

Leader: Though we cannot always see the growth,

**People: Like the bamboo tree, our roots grow deep in faith.**

Leader: Until the day of Christ Jesus,

**People: We live with urgent expectation.**

Leader: Let us worship the One who came as a child,

**All: And will return to make all things new!**

\*HYMN: #173 “O Come All Ye Faithful”

CCLI Song #31054, Public Domain, #11593017

\*OPENING PRAYER: Gracious God, we gather today with hearts full of expectation for Christ's return. Help us to live with urgency and wisdom, discerning what is best as we await the day when you will make all things new. Fill us with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ. And now, as Jesus taught us to pray...Our Father, who art in heaven ... (using debts and debtors...) Amen.

\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

\*GLORIA PATRI: #807

## GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:68-79 (page 1014) {A.B. page 1123}

SPECIAL MUSIC: (8:45) “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” arr. by J. Raney (hymn #163)  
June Pettit and David Kraft (piano duet)

ANTHEM: (11:00) “Christmas Is Coming” with Handbells, by Joel Raney  
(words on insert) United Church Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC: (11:00) “Sing We Now of Christmas” a French Carol  
(words on insert) sung by the Men's Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 3:1-6 (page 1016) {A.B. page 1126}

Sermon

“Expectant Hearts: Waiting on God”

(Philippians 1:3-11)

Pastor Wade Allen

## OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH

\*HYMN: #165 “I Wonder as I Wander”

CCLI Song #7061044, Public Domain, #11593017

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY: “*From Heaven above Earth I Come*” by Johann Pachelbel

\*DOXOLOGY: #809

\*HYMN: #162 “The First Noel”

CCLI Song #31047, Public Domain, #11593017

BABY DEDICATION: (11:00) Gracie Amara Simeon

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “*Prelude-Improvisation on Veni Emmanuel*” by Arthur Egerton

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

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

**Health concerns:** Stephen Cole, 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 14 – Church Game Night

Dec 15 – Christmas Pageant

Dec 15 – FLSO Concert

Jan 12 – Info meeting for Boyce Memorial

Jan 26 – Annual Congregational Meeting

## ***Highlights for This Week!***

- The gifts for **Christmas angel tree** are **due today**. Please return your **wrapped gift with the tag attached** by placing it under the tree in the welcome center. Please see Deb Marshall with any questions.
- We need **3 volunteers** to help with **downstairs kitchen clean up** at Youth Club on **Wednesday, Dec 11th**, from approximately **5:15-6:30pm**. Please sign up on Deb's door if you are able to help.
- We need **10 dozen** cut out **Christmas cookies** (frosted and decorated) **delivered** to the **church** by **3pm** this **Wednesday, Dec 11th** for our Youth Club kids. If you can make a dozen or more, please let Deb Marshall know.
- **Join us** on **Dec 15th** at **10am** in the Sanctuary for our **Christmas pageant**. The children & youth are excited to present a new Christmas pageant this year. All are invited to come and see! **Parents**, please remember that there is a **mandatory practice** on **Sat, Dec 14th** from **9:30-11am** for children aged **K -12th grade**.
- **We need more nursery volunteers**. If you are interested in serving in the nursery, please see Louise VanIseghem 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.
- **Christmas Mall Trip** - THIS Friday at 5:30 PM - 6-12 grade students. Please register your students online. We are also in need of drivers to and from the Mall. Please contact Mark if you are available to help.
- **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 (Last Week!)
- **Greeter/Offering Coordinator for December is Bill Fortunato.**

---

**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** ~ Children's Time (children's church) is held during the 11am service immediately following the Children's Sermon. Kids in **kindergarten through 2nd grade** are welcome to attend Children's Time or stay with their parents in worship. Parents, please pick up your children in Room 26 promptly after the service. Thank you!

**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 (or the ones from your Lamplighter or box of 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!

### Game Night

Come join us for a fun family game night next **Saturday, Dec 14th** from **6:30-8:30 pm** in the Fellowship Room. Feel free to bring a friend or a game or snack to share!



### Stewardship

Our stewardship season is underway, and so far we've received **94** pledge forms back with **\$279,977** pledged to Operating and **\$88,414** 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 11th:

**Snack - Davis**

**Kitchen Clean up - non-YC parent volunteers needed!!**

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:** *Heavenly Father, may discernment deepen our understanding and draw us closer to Your truth. Let our pursuit of wisdom lead to a greater love for You and Your ways. Amen.*

Christmas is Coming (anthem)

Christmas is coming  
Let the church bells ring  
People celebratin' the birth of a King  
Shout-in Hosanna till the heavens ring  
Christmas is comin', let the church bells ring!

Christmas is comin', Mary's baby boy  
Bringin us a message of comfort and joy  
Glory hallelujah, what a wonderful thing  
Christmas is comin' let the church bells ring!

Glory filled the heavens  
Music filled the night  
Shepards heard the angels sing  
Wise men saw the light

O come, O Come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the son of God appear  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

Sing We Now of Christmas (Men's Choir)

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, Noel  
Sing of Christmas, Noel, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!  
Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear.  
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Angels called in shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest  
Journey forth to Bethlehem, find the lambkin blest."  
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!  
Sing of Christmas, Noel, Noel! Sing of Christmas Noel, Noel!

In Bethlehem they found him, Joseph and Mary mild,  
Seated by the manger, watching the holy child.  
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!  
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!



Notes, Doodles and lists of cookies to bake and share with the church staff:

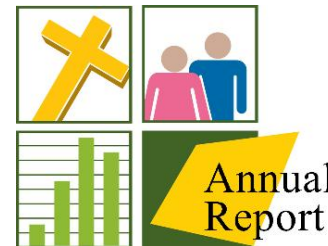
**Chrismons**

The Christmas tree is not only beautifully decorated but each ornament has significance and points to Christ. The tree is decorated in Gold and White. The white is symbolic of Christ's purity and perfection, and the gold, his majesty, glory and triumph.



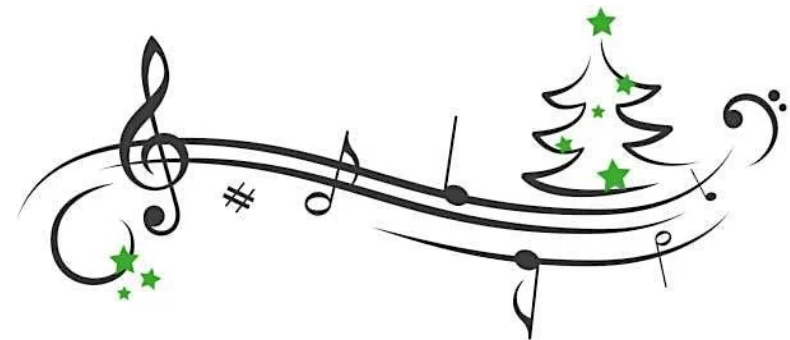
The white ornaments were made with love and care in 1996 by Esther and Claude Pullis and Vera and Bob Fraser in Esther's basement. Esther said that the men drew the shapes on Styrofoam and used a jigsaw to cut them out. She and Vera decorated them with sequins. When you look closely, you will see the intricate and delicate workmanship within each. They are called Chrismons and each points to scripture or an aspect of Jesus Christ. Chrismon is formed from the words "Christ" and "monogram" and means a representation or symbol of Christ. We are blessed that these ornaments have been so carefully preserved over the years.

A booklet describing each Chrismon, also researched and compiled by Esther, is reprinted and available for you to pick up by the sanctuary doors.



Are you the person in charge of writing the **annual report** for your committee or group? If so, please send your report to the office by Dec 20th. (If you need end of year numbers, then ASAP after Jan 1st.) If having last years' report would be helpful to you, let Carolyn know.

Join us here next **Sunday, Dec 15th at 3 pm**, the **Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra** will be playing an assortment of holiday favorites! Tickets will be available at the door.



*just kidding* 😊