

# THE UNITED CHURCH

PRESBYTERIAN – AMERICAN BAPTIST

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**PRELUDE:** *“Three Festive Carols”* arr. Mark Hayes and Marvin Gaspard  
*Ryan Marshall and David Kraft (piano/organ duet)*

**INTROIT:** “Ring the Bells” United Church Choir with Youth Bellringers

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETING**

## OUR PREPARATION

**Focus of the day:** As Mary did, we should respond to God’s call with obedience and joy.

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: In the quiet of an ordinary day, God spoke to Mary.

**People: And her life was forever changed.**

Leader: Though the path was uncertain, Mary said "Yes" to God.

**People: Give us courage to say "Yes" when You call us.**

Leader: The Mighty One has done great things,

**People: And holy is His name.**

Leader: God lifts up the humble and fills the hungry,

**All: Let us worship the God who turns our world upside down.**

**\*HYMN: #146 “Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come”**

CCLI Song #24016, Public Domain, #11593017

**\*OPENING PRAYER:** Gracious God, as we remember Mary's faithful response to your call, prepare our hearts to be disrupted by your presence. Give us courage to say "yes" when you call, wisdom to follow where you lead, and trust to believe that your ways are higher than our ways. And now we pray as Jesus taught us...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:** Psalm 80:1-7 (page 582) {A.B. page 656}

**ANTHEM:** “Twelve Days of Christmas Praise” arr. Pepper Choplin (words on insert)  
United Church Choir

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE:** Brenda Cunningham

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** “Shepherd’s Joy” (words on insert) Youth Choir

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 1:39-55 (page 1013) {A.B. page 1122}

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** “Run, Shepherds!” Johnson (words on insert) Small Ensemble

**Sermon**

**“Mary’s Yes: Embracing God’s Call”**

**(Luke 1:39-55)**

**Pastor Wade Allen**

## OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH

**\*HYMN: #156 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”** CCLI Song #233759, Public Domain, #11593017

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY:** *“Away in a Manger”* by Mark Blatchly

**\*DOXOLOGY: #809**

**\*HYMN: #151 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”** CCLI Song #29080, Public Domain, #11593017

**BENEDICTION:** “Hear the Good News” by D. Allen Men’s Quartet

**POSTLUDE:** *“In Dulci Jubilo” (BWV 729)* by Johann Sebastian Bach

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

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

**Health concerns:** The Cheney family (RSV), Stephen Cole (stroke), Karen Mount, James Sheppard, Linda Gilbert, Jessica Canham (Sharyn's daughter), Mary Jane Laird, Denise Bailey Tautges, Tom Babcock (friend of Jenny Caron), Maverick, Deanna Stocker and Carly 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:** Alex Clark (son of Rob and Natalie), 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!):**

Jan 12 – Info meeting for Boyce Memorial

Jan 26 – Annual Congregational Meeting

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

- We will have one **Christmas Eve service at 7 pm**, with carols, readings, special music, communion and candle lighting.
- We will have **ONE service at 11am next Sunday, December 29**. There will be no early service and no Sunday school.
- The **Parent/Child Library** in the upstairs chapel has been **refreshed** with **LOTS of new books!** There is also a display of **20 Christmas books** for you and your family to enjoy! All families are welcome to use the Parent/Child library at any time. **Please sign the book(s) out** and return within 4 weeks. Any questions? See Deb Marshall

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**Nursery care** is offered during service ~ The Preschool Nursery (Room 11) is available.

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**Children's Time** ~ There is no Children's Time (children's church) today. **Worship packets** are **available** at both **front entrances** of the sanctuary. Children are welcome to use these during the service. **Please return the reusable items** at the end of the service. We hope you enjoy worshipping together as a family.

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**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. **We are so happy that you joined us today and look forward to seeing you again soon!**

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**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.





## Faith and Action Christmas Joy Offering

*Our opportunity to say thank you to all those who have given of themselves in their work for Christ.*

**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/boxed envelopes, indicate Christmas offering on your check, or choose the Christmas Joy fund for online giving.

### Hurricane Relief Mission Trip

We all know of the devastation left by Hurricane Helene, especially in western North Carolina. The rebuild of that area will take years! We all wonder what we can do to help in addition to providing funds. **The mission team is coordinating an inter-generational work trip to Fairview, NC** which is just 11 miles from Asheville the week of April 14. Seabees Outreach Ministry, a ministry of Navy veterans, is establishing a work camp there to help locals devastated by the hurricane. They have assured us that they will find appropriate work for any skill level. **Please join us for an informational meeting on Jan. 19** after the second service. If you cannot attend the meeting feel free to reach out to Sonya Brooks (sonya.brooks99@yahoo.com).

**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 **106** pledge forms back with **\$318,117** pledged to Operating and **\$100,614** 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

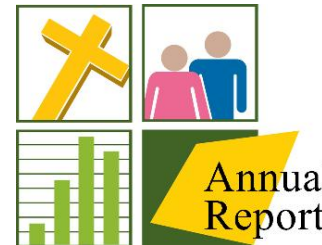
Our night includes: Recreation, Worship, Bible study, and Family Time (dinner)

**No Youth Club on the following dates:**

December 25 and January 1

**Youth Club will resume on January 8**

Any questions? Please see Deb Marshall



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 ASAP. (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.

**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.



# Christmas Word Find

G C P M E H E F F N Y Y A S E  
 V F I O G K N O C Y R R I L B  
 Z H S J Z X U H E G A B Z N B  
 H A T I D U R X S Z M E I P E  
 R P L R S I L E N T N I G H T  
 R K O Q S N E M E S I W A J H  
 Y L X T Y Z S W C Z S P E P L  
 M I M F H F N P N S J V E K E  
 J A B T T B A R I O R S X Z H  
 S A I Y L Y T E K V O F L W E  
 H A Y E Y T I G N J I O E E M  
 F A M K R H V N A E V U G P E  
 M A A N W A I A R S A S N O E  
 C I H O T C T M F U S O A H F  
 D J E D K Q Y S V S W T E K Q

JESUS	HAY
MARY	ANGEL
JOSEPH	FAITH
WISEMEN	HOPE
MANGER	FRANKINCENSE
NATIVITY	MYRRH
BETHLEHEM	SILENT NIGHT
CAMEL	LORD
DONKEY	SAVIOR
STAR	CHRISTMAS



## Notes & Doodles

### Can't make it to our Christmas Eve service?

Here are the service times for some of the other Canandaigua-area churches:

#### LIFESPRING COMMUNITY CHURCH

ADDRESS - 5026 North Rd

4:00 - Candlelight Service

6:00 - Candlelight Service

#### CHESHIRE COMMUNITY CHURCH

ADDRESS - 4315 State Route 21

6:00 PM - Service

#### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ADDRESS - 58 N Main St

4:30 PM - Pre Service Music

5:00 PM - Service

#### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADDRESS - 100 N Main St

7:00 PM - Family Oriented Candlelight Service

10:30 PM - 1/2 hour of sacred music played live before service starts

11:00 PM - Traditional Candlelight Service

#### GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

ADDRESS - 320 S Pearl St

5 PM - Family service aimed at young children with flashlights for candles with Communion

8 PM - Traditional Candlelight with communion

11 PM - Ceremony of Carols and Lessons done by candlelight with communion

#### PATHWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

ADDRESS - 4317 County Road 46

6:00 PM - Traditional candlelight service - half hour

**The Twelve Days of Christmas Praise** by Pepper Choplin (anthem)

On the first day of Christmas we gather now to sing  
And praise you, Christ the King  
On the second day of Christmas we gather now to sing  
Emmanuel, we praise you, Christ the King  
On the third day of Christmas we gather now to sing  
God with us, Emmanuel, we praise you, Christ the King  
On the fourth day of Christmas we gather now to sing  
Bright Morning Star, God with us, Emmanuel,  
We praise you, Christ the King  
On the fifth day of Christmas we gather now to sing  
Prince, Prince of Peace, Bright Morning Star,  
God with us, Emmanuel, We praise you, Christ the King  
On the sixth day of Christmas we gather now to sing  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Bright Morning Star,  
God with us, Emmanuel, We praise you, Christ the King  
On the seventh day of Christmas we gather now to sing  
Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,  
Bright Morning Star, God with us, Emmanuel,  
We praise you, Christ the King  
On the eighth day of Christmas we gather now to sing  
Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace, Bright Morning Star, God with us, Emmanuel,  
We praise you, Christ the King  
On the ninth day of Christmas we gather now to sing  
Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince, the Prince of Peace, Prince of peace, we praise you,  
Bright Morning Star, God with us, Emmanuel,  
We praise you, Christ the King  
On the tenth day of Christmas we gather now to sing  
On the eleventh day of Christmas we gather now to sing  
King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Wonderful, Counselor,  
Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace  
On the twelfth day of Christmas we gather now to sing  
Alpha and Omega, King or Kings, Lord of Lords, Wonderful,  
Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,  
Bright Morning Star, God with us, Emmanuel, praise you,  
Christ the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah!

**Shepherd's Joy**- Parker and Hayes (Youth Choir)

One quiet night when all was still, I saw a wondrous sight  
While tending sheep up on a hill one peaceful winter's night:  
For in the sky there shone a light so glorious and bright.  
Behold, an angel did appear upon that special night.

Glory to God! Glory to God on high!  
Messiah has come! Love has transformed this night!

The angel said, "Now have no fear, I bring good news to all.  
A Savior now is born to you; your God has heard your call;  
In Bethlehem, in lowly manger lying in a stall.  
God worship Him, the newborn King; before Him humbly fall."

Glory to God! Glory to God on high!  
Messiah has come! Love has transformed this night!

Then angels quickly filled the sky with glory all around,  
Praising God with joyful voice; I listened to their sound.  
Then all the shepherds went to where the Baby could be found,  
Then bowed in homage to the King, their faces on the ground.

Glory to God! Glory to God on high!  
Messiah has come! Love has transformed this night!  
Gloria!

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**Run, Shepherds!** by Johnson (Small Ensemble)

Run, shepherds, run and see the Baby!  
Run, shepherds, to Bethlehem!  
Run, shepherds, run and see the Baby,  
See the Baby born the Great I Am! (repeat)

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.  
It will lead to the place where the Saviors born.  
If you take good heed to the angel's words,  
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds.

Run, shepherds, run and see the Baby!  
Run, shepherds, to Bethlehem!  
Run, shepherds, run and see the Baby,  
See the Baby born the Great I Am!

**OUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:**

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Grammy & Grampy Adams

Our Parents

Carol McIntyre

Charles & Sylvia Boseck

Ken & Barbara Meierdierks

John Braun

Howard Bush, Robert Bush, brothers

Craig W. George, dad

Dorothy Cole

Doris Steen

Eva Bryant

Lillian Bishop

Helen & Bill Doeblor

Pearle & Ernest Hutchinson

Wilfred & Virginia Stewart

Bruce Stewart

Tamara Pineda

Fred D. Ferlito

Bill & Shirley Cubbison

Bob & Evelyn Frye

Phyllis Gerhard

Our Parents; Brother; Sister

Amanda Crow

Ian Harvey

Bill Benedict

Jan Barnes & Elsie Green

Jerry Sherman

Claude Pullis

Dot & Rev. Fred Magley

Joe Holroyd

**GIVEN BY:**

Adam, Tyler, Kevin, Christopher, Will & Carolyn June

Jack & Ardelle Bigos

Jim & Becky Boseck

Nancy Bowllan

His wife, Shirley Braun

Rich & Cathy Bush

Mike & Sarah Cole

Sarah Cole

Sarah Cole

Sarah Cole

Their Family

Their Family

Kathy Eagan

Roberta Ferlito & Barnes Family

Dan & Connie Frye

Karen Gardner

Bruce & Debbie Gardner



George & Joan Reineke

Dotty Maffin

Bill & June Adams

Al Johnson & Maggie Rapp

Jan Gullace

Ed Olson

David Crowe

Russ (Pie) Cameron

Ted Libernini

Richard Poole

Lou Gyoerkoe

Lawrence Hobbs

Kenneth & Carolyn Hobbs

Harold & Clare Lilholt

Margaret W. Hood

Paul, Sr. & Mary Ann Johnson

Lincoln Aquadro

Dorothy M. LaBrake

Donald E. LaBrake

Walter Larder

Neola Collins

Lincoln Aquadro

Vann Owens

Taylor Mae Payne

Mike & Roberta O'Brien

Elmer & Viola Peck

Harry & Mildred Tellier

Kayla Schroeder, Jennifer Peck

Zachary Pettit

Rev. Fred Magley, Pastor Emeritus



Sarah Gross

Dean & Lauren Gyoerkoe

Scott Hobbs

Larry Hood (husband)

Kathy Walker & Debbie O'Dell (daughters)

Paul & Beth Johnson

The LaBrake children

Roaix, Ramirez

Gary Larder

Betty A. Owens

Robin, Eric & Grace Payne

Jim & Ann Peck & family

Earl & June Pettit (grandparents)

Don & Rachel Rensberger

Loved Ones  
Randy Secrest  
Gaynor W. Seeber  
Leo & Jean Van Riper  
Steve Kelley  
Bruce Allen & Martha Harris  
Brad & Greg Van Riper, John Allen

Loved Ones  
Eleanor & Albert Dabb, Jr.  
Ruth & Frank Espenmiller

Our Parents  
Mr. & Mrs. John O. Ertell  
Dr. & Mrs. Donald Wormer  
Elizabeth Teal  
Dennis Wilk

**IN HONOR OF:**  
Susan Vadney  
Sandi DiCicco  
Sarah Gross  
Kathie Meredith

The United Church Pastor,  
Staff & Church Family

Reed, Eva, & Billy

Our Family

Paul Johnson

Al & Dawn Rossi  
Helen Secrest & family  
Sally & family

Jeff & Joy Van Riper

Lou & Carolyn Verspoor

Linda & Kurt Werts

Aleta & Dean Williamson

Tom & Melissa Wormer

**GIVEN BY:**  
Hiram & Linda Bailey

Bruce & Debbie Gardner

Joyce Laursen

Enie & Mac McKenzie

Betty A. Owens

