

# THE UNITED CHURCH

PRESBYTERIAN – AMERICAN BAPTIST

December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

**PRELUDE:** “*Away in a Manger*” by William James Kirkpatrick, arr. Keith Chapman

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREETING**

## OUR PREPARATION

**INTROIT:** (11:00) “O Come Let Us Adore Him” (hymn #126)

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: In the midst of the barren land,

**People: flowers burst into bloom.**

Leader: In the midst of the dry desert,

**People: streams of water gush forth.**

Leader: In the midst of sorrow and sighing,

**People: joy and gladness dance together.**

**All: We shall see the glory of God!**

**\*HYMN: #157 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

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**\*OPENING PRAYER:** God of Glory, we rejoice in the good news of your promises. Come into our parched world and shower us with your gushing, abundant water of life. Enter into our brokenness, and renew us with the strength of your love. Be born anew in our hearts and in our world. Come, Jesus; come. We are ready! We pray this in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray...Our Father... (using debts and debtors...) Amen.

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**\*GLORIA PATRI: #807**

**RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS:** Elaine Allen, Sharyn Canham, Dan and Connie Frye,  
Kathi Nacca, Brian and Mary Wiser

## GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:** Isaiah 35:1-10 (page 709) {A.B. page 787}

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** (8:45) “I Wonder As I Wander”

Joy Van Riper (piano)

**ANTHEM:** (11:00) “Christmas Grace” (words on insert)

The United Church Choir

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING:** Psalm 146:5-10 (page 622) {A.B. page 697}

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** (11:00) “Joy to the World” arr. Bober

Walter Marshall (piano)

**Sermon**

**“The Gift”**

**Pastor Wade Allen**

## OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH

**\*HYMN: #162 “The First Noel” (vs 1, 2, 4)**

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**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY:** *Huron Carol*

**\*DOXOLOGY: #809**

**\*HYMN: #166 “While by the Sheep We Watched”**

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**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** *"Joy to the World" by Franklin Ritter*

***Our sympathy and prayers are with Hiram Bailey, whose sister, Marjorie Jines, passed away this week. Please keep Hiram and Linda and their family in your prayers during this difficult time.***

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

**Health concerns:** Louis and Carolyn Verspoor, Kathy Mills, Clancy Cragle (Michelle's grandfather), the Herin Family (relatives of Kathie Meredith), Patti Cagwin, David Crowe, Jack Schermond, Jim LaBrake (uncle of Karen Roaix), Brexton Bigos-Stocker (grandson of Ardelle Bigos), Dylan Smith (friend of Kat McFetridge), Ethan Eckert (friend of Scharr family), Shane Collins (staff at LeTourneau), Matthew Gullace

**Cancer:** Rob Stults (cousin of Wade and Christy Allen), Donna Schoenacker (aunt of Aldrich family), Laurie Rudy, Mike Davis (friend of Guy Green), Tom Wager (friend of Mark Slomski), Kelly Fish (James Mergenthaler's sister), Dawn Miller, Julie High, Mary J. Havens (Mary Lou's step-daughter), David Pagoda (friend of Eveleigh family), Keith Laursen (Tim's brother), Jim Davis (Scott's father), Jackie Crego (Stan and Evey Wright's daughter), Stephen Carges (brother of Paula Traber), Jon Santmyer (friend of Malecs), Darryl Kramer (friend of DiCiccio)

**Recovering:** David Sanford, Mary Jane Laird, Barbara Scott, Jan Gullace, Sue Paul (friend of Zajacs), Jay Peck (son of Jim & Ann)

**Comfort and Peace:** Jack Ebersol

**MILITARY SERVICE:** Steven Munk (MacKenzie Brown's cousin) deployed to Somalia, LTJG Nick Castiller (USN) stationed in Everett, Washington, MAC Adam Thorman (USN) deployed overseas, E6 Cody Wells (USN) returned from deployment, Technical Sergeant Timothy Peck (USAF) home from deployment

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

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

**Have you been on our church website recently? We've got a nice new look,**  
and hopefully it will be easier for everyone to find what they're looking for.

<https://www.unitedchurchcanandaigua.com/>



Some of the links on the website will take you to updated versions of things like the calendar, livestreams, bulletins and Lamplighters, online giving, and registration for events. Check it out!

If you use a smartphone or tablet, download the free Church Center app to have easy access to everything church related!

**Wednesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast invites you!**

Men of all ages are invited to join us at 7:00 am Wednesday morning in the Fellowship Room for a hot breakfast, prayer and Bible study.



The shopping cart for collecting **food donations** will be in the Gathering Area every Sunday due to increased needs in the community. We will alternate taking the donations to the CCIA and Salvation Army food pantries. Thank you for your generosity!



We welcome your help to serve as **Greeters for the Sunday Services**. Greeters welcome people as they enter the church building and they hand out Bulletins at the Sanctuary entrances. Greeters also pass the Offering Plates during the Offertory. Reminders are emailed with instructions and location assignments.

The Greeter ministry is a wonderful way to show that we are a hospitable church and that we welcome all who want to worship the Lord with our congregation. **The December sign up sheet is on the Office door.** If you have any questions, please ask any Steward or call the Office. Thanks so much for serving in this way on any Sunday that you're available.

**Children's Thanksgiving Mission Project ~ One Great Hour of Sharing**

**Fish banks are due. Please turn your fish bank in ASAP** and we'll see how God multiplies the fish and loaves we bring to bless others.

*"I tell you the truth, whatever you did  
for one of the least of these brothers of mine,  
you did for me." Matthew 25:40*



**The Stewards Assistance Fund:** This Fund assists those in our congregation who are facing temporary financial challenges. If you are struggling, please call the Office at (585) 394-0503 to speak with Virginia Holroyd, or email her at [virginia.holroyd@uccdga.org](mailto:virginia.holroyd@uccdga.org)

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**MISSIONS**  
*Hope Love Joy Peace*  
**Christmas JOY! Offering *TODAY***

**What is the Christmas JOY! Offering?**

- Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to his people. This child, God's Word made flesh became one of us.
- Our JOY! Offering honors and celebrates retired pastors and missionaries who have faithfully guided and led us.
- "Retired Ministers and Missionaries" and "America for Christ" (Baptist) receive half of our offering
- Past - Present - and Future leaders are supported with the "Christmas Joy! Offering" (Presbyterian) receiving the second half of our offering.
- "America for Christ" part of the offering works to cultivate leaders, equip disciples and heal communities across our nation and Puerto Rico.

Each December the United Church receives this special offering honoring God's perfect gift of His Son and support for leaders "PAST - PRESENT- FUTURE".

Thank you for your generous support of these three very important special offerings which we have combined into our Special Christmas Offering. **If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.**

Use the envelopes in the pew rack or the December Lamplighter to share JOY! Electronic giving is also available on the church's website.

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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. 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!**

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**Nursery care** is available during all Sunday services. Families with little ones (babies through preschoolers) are welcome to use the nursery as desired. Room 10 is used during the 8:45am service and Room 11 is used during the 11am service. If your child is not potty trained, please **take a pager** in case your child needs a diaper change. Thank you! Any questions? Please see Jason and Melissa Long or Deb Marshall.

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**Children's Time** ~ There is Children's Time today. After the children's sermon, children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are invited upstairs to Room 26 for an age-appropriate lesson. Parents, please pick up your children promptly after the service. Thank you!

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**Special  
Congregational Meeting**



**A Special Congregational Meeting** of the United Church will be held after the 11:00 service, in the sanctuary, **TODAY, December 11, 2022**. The purpose of the meeting is to approve calling Mark Slomski as Pastor of Youth and Adult Ministry.

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**Annual Reports are due by Dec 16th!** If you are the person in charge of writing your committee or board or group's Annual Report, please send it to Carolyn in the office by the 16th (unless it includes end of year financials, in which case ASAP after January 1st, please!)



**Called to Care** ~ A couple of folks from the United Church are needed to be “on call” to donate new household linens (sheets, bath towels, etc) for the refugee family’s apartment once we know the sizes and numbers needed. If you’d like to help in this way, contact Cathy Bush.

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## **Sunday happenings...**

### **TODAY –**

Service at 8:45am

### **Children’s Christmas Pageant at 10am**

Service at 11:00am

The Cause, 5-7:30pm

### **Sunday, December 18, 2022 –**

Service at 8:45am

Service at 11:00am

### **Sunday, December 25, 2022 –**

*Service at 11:00am ONLY*

### **Sunday, January 1, 2023 –**

*Service at 11:00am ONLY*

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### **Baking for Youth Club!**

Calling all bakers! We serve dessert to our Youth Club kids and volunteers each week. Sometimes we like to enjoy homemade desserts. If you see something you’d be able to bake, please let Deb Marshall know. Desserts need to be delivered to church by Wednesday at 4:00pm. Often more than one baker helps to make the quantity needed.



For January 18th – 6 dozen smiley face cupcakes

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**Volunteer locally this holiday season!** Are you looking to get out and serve our community this holiday season? Well, look no further! **Gleaner’s Kitchen** is ready to welcome volunteers from The United Church **during the week of December 26-30**. You can help in the kitchen or the dining room. This volunteer opportunity is for all ages; however, please note that children 12 and under will only be allowed to help in the dining room. Please check your calendar, grab some friends or family, and sign up to help on the Adult Ed Bulletin board. ?s See Deb Marshall.

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## **YOUTH CLUB**

**Our Wednesday afterschool ministry**

**For children in grades 2 – 8**

**After school – 6:30 October through April**

**Bible Study~Worship~Recreation~Family Time**

Thank you to parents who are signed up to help out with snack and kitchen clean-up! We couldn’t do it without your help!

### **Parent Duties:**

#### **Kitchen Clean Up – Wednesdays, 6pm til done**

Dec. 14 – Pasquarelli, Aldrich, Grube

Dec. 21 – No Youth Club

#### **Snack for 42 hungry children – at the church by 2pm Wednesdays**

Dec. 14 – Parsons

Dec. 21 – No Youth Club

#### **Family Time Themes:**

Dec. 14 – Advent - Joy and Love

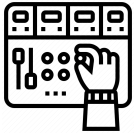
Dec. 21 – No Youth Club

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## Youth Club goes Caroling! December 14

We will have regularly scheduled Youth Club and we will also go caroling! Be sure your child is equipped to bundle up and walk up and down Gibson St ~ and if you live on Gibson St, please listen/look for us and come out and give us a wave! We will be caroling from about 5:15-5:45. We are excited to share some Christmas joy through song!

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We are looking for people interested in helping with the audio support of the 8:45am Sunday worship service and both audio and video support for the 11:00 service. People interested can contact Dale Zajac at 585-924-8564 or [mrz@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mrz@rochester.rr.com). We plan to coordinate show and tell training in the next few weeks.

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## Advent Devotionals for Adults

We are offering two different devotionals this season -- one is online and the other is in booklet form. Choose either one or both for daily readings during Advent.

1. "The Promised One" -- Advent readings from Christianity Today. This devotional is online only. Go to the following link on your computer or device -- [https://bit.ly/CT\\_Advent\\_2022](https://bit.ly/CT_Advent_2022)
  2. "Be Born In Us Today" -- by Chad Bird. Find this booklet at the sanctuary entrances. If you'd like us to mail one to you, please contact the church office.
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## Children's Christmas Pageant TODAY at 10am In the sanctuary



"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;  
He is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

## Birthday Party for Jesus after the pageant In the Fellowship Room

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**Let Music Warm Your Heart with Christmas Joy!** Our Christmas performances are open to the community. Please invite your friends and family. **TODAY at 3:00pm we host the Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra** offering their "Holiday Celebration." Tickets will be available at the door. Our **Traditional Christmas Organ Concert is planned for Friday, December 16th at 7:00pm** and features guest organist Tim Schramm. Tim is well known in the area, has performed here before, and currently serves as Minister of Music for St. Michael's Church in Newark. Special guests performing with him will be Tim Burdick, saxophonist, Sam Wersinger, vocalist and Dennis Overhoff, pianist. A freewill offering will be received and a holiday dessert reception will follow the concert. Please see the sign up on the office door or speak with Ellen Parsons or Joce Laursen if you would like to donate items.

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## Alternative Christmas gift market!

If you are looking for meaningful ways to honor your family and friends at Christmas please consider giving a gift that can change lives. For the next few weeks we will display in the welcoming center giving catalogs from various organizations suggesting gifts that matter. Please take a moment to look through these catalogs as you think about purchasing gifts for Christmas.

## Youth Ministry

### 2023 Calendars

It is time for another year of fundraising for Youth Ministry at our church through the sale of **2023 Calendars**! A table is set up for the purchase of calendars after both services.

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**Care Net is in need of volunteers!** Here are some ways you can help:

- organizing the baby boutique
- greeting clients and getting them diapers and wipes; praying with clients that are open to it
- being a peer counselor (requires a 24-hour training)
- assisting at the front desk
- assisting with our parenting classes (in the center and virtual)

**Please call Care Net at 393-0437 for more information.**

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### *Sybil's Socks for Shelters*

In memory of Sybil Amico, who passed away on Thanksgiving Day, we are taking up a **collection of socks** that will go to local assistance agencies. During Sybil's final few months of dealing with terminal cancer, her feet were always cold. Warm socks were *really* important to her.

If you would like to donate a pair of new socks, there will be a basket in the Welcome Center through December 18th. **Thanks!**

Note: there will not be a local memorial service for Sybil; her body has been flown to her childhood home town in N. Carolina.

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**Pledge forms were mailed out.** If you haven't received one yet, feel free to take one of the extras. We have a goal of **150 families** sending in a pledge! Help us get closer to our goal! Pledge forms may be placed in the offering plate, in the gold box, mailed to the office or submitted online. To do it online just scan this code!

As of this week, we've received **109** pledges of \$335,858.04 to the operating budget and \$90,524 to the missions budget.

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**Christmas Grace** by Ruth Elaine Schram, c. 2005 Lorenz Publishing

To take God's Son from heaven, to turn the Lord of all  
into a helpless infant, a baby weak and small.

To give to our Creator a fully human face! This, this is Christmas grace.

The feet that walked in splendor on streets of purest gold,  
now wrapped in humble swaddling, now shiver from the cold.

The hand that Mary holds hung the moon and stars in space. This, this is  
Christmas grace.

Grace to share our frailty, understand our fragile lot;  
Jesus laid aside His power to be helped, trained, and taught.  
To know the sting of hunger, feel the pain of grief and loss,  
God's Son allowed Himself to be born for us!

He traded heaven's majesty, He left His glorious throne  
for wood and hay and rubble, a shell of flesh and bone.  
The Lord Almighty locked in a single time and place. This, this is Christmas grace.





**Can you solve the puzzle this week? It is pretty tricky! Read all of the instructions!**

- Work out the missing numbers using the fact that only the letters shown below can be hidden in the puzzle, and each is three numbers wide and tall.

- Each letter can be the right way up, upside down, or on its side.

All possible letter shapes are shown below. Some are the same when rotated!

Find Begridled books on Amazon

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

### #157 Good Christian Friends

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say; Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this;  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save;  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

### #162 The First Noel

1. The first Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
(Chorus) Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. (chorus)

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. (chorus)

### #166 While by the Sheep

1. While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright;  
(Chorus) How great our Joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

2. There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a Child today. (Chorus)

3. There shall the Child lie in a stall, this Child who shall redeem us all. (chorus)

4. This gift of God we'll cherish well, that every joy our hearts shall fill. (Chorus)