

THE UNITED CHURCH

PRESBYTERIAN – AMERICAN BAPTIST

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE: *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” - Traditional Polish Carol 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 darkness, God brings a new light.

People: Thanks be to the God of light.

Leader: In the midst of confusion and fear, God brings hope and peace.

People: Thanks be to the God of peace.

Leader: In the midst of strife and stress, God comforts and soothes us.

All: Let us praise God who truly loves us and brings us new life. AMEN.

***HYMN: #152 “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

CCLI Song #27721, Public Domain, CCLI Lic. #11593017

***OPENING PRAYER:** Lord of all life and all seasons, help us open our hearts to hear the words of promise and love that you send to us. May we trust in your abiding love and power. Prepare us to receive your gift of grace and peace this Advent season. 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 7:10-16 (page 681) {A.B. page 760}

SPECIAL MUSIC: (8:45) *“Joy Medley”*

Kateri Andress and June Pettit (piano duet)

ANTHEM: (11:00) *“Kings Bell Carol”* (words on insert)

The United Church Choir

with Summer Cunningham (flute), Brenda & Natalie Cunningham (Handchimes)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 1:18-25 (page 955) {A.B. page 1052}

SPECIAL MUSIC: (11:00) *“Hallelujah, Christ is Born”* (words on insert)

Youth Choir

(Emelia Beyrle, Amelia & Elise Cunningham, Fiona & Norah James, Adele Marshall, Anna Zajac)

Sermon

“Patience”

Pastor Wade Allen

OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH

***HYMN: #165 “I Wonder As I Wander”**

CCLI Song #7061044, Public Domain, CCLI Lic. #11593017

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY: (8:45) *“What Child Is This*

(11:00) “Joy to the World” arr. Bober

Walter Marshall (piano)

***DOXOLOGY: #809**

***HYMN: #170 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”** CCLI Song #31078, Public Domain, CCLI Lic. #11593017

BENEDICTION

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

Our sympathy and prayers are with Rita Ebersol, whose husband, Jack, passed away last Sunday, December 11th. Please keep Rita and her family in your prayers during this difficult time.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Health concerns: Louis and Carolyn Verspoor, David Sanford, Kathy Mills, Clancy Cragle (Michelle's grandfather), the Herin Family (relatives of Kathie Meredith), Patti Cagwin, David Crowe, Jack Schermond, 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: Karen Roaix, Mary Jane Laird, Barbara Scott, Jan Gullace, Sue Paul (friend of Zajacs), Jay Peck (son of Jim & Ann)
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.*



Important holiday announcements in a nutshell (please read the rest for more details!)



- We will have **one Christmas Eve service at 7 pm** (no late service)
- We will have **one Christmas Day service at 11 am** (no early service) - Come in your Christmas jammies if you like (child or adult, we won't judge you!)
- We will have **one New Years Day service at 11 am** (no early service)
- **The church office will be closed Dec 23 and Dec 26-30** (leave email or voicemail if you need to reach staff)
- **Sunday School and The Cause resume on January 8**
- **Youth Club resumes on January 11**

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 and January sign up sheets are 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

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!**

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.

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!

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.



Called to Care, Canandaigua has welcomed our first family!!! Tired from their flight to NYC from Poland and then a day-long bus ride to Rochester, this Ukrainian family of five arrived in Canandaigua on Wednesday. Our committees are a buzz of "welcome" activities. "Housing" is getting their apartment ready. "Other needs" delivered welcome items. Our "core group," which acts as a board, has many resettlement tasks ahead of us. But it is with a full heart and the joy and hope that the season brings that we appreciate the many of you and others in the community who are now a part of this family's story to leave a war ravaged country to find welcome in our community. Praise be to God...

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 apartments once we know the sizes and numbers needed. If you'd like to help in this way, contact Cathy Bush.



MISSIONS

Hope Love Joy Peace

The Advent Wreath

The shape is a circle. There is no beginning and no end to a circle.

Light is provided by each candle and Christ brings light to the world. Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are names given to the four smaller candles. The larger candle is the Christ candle.

Missions invite all to join the circle of Christians. The circle with Christ as the center can be entered at any point to experience Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

German and Farci, Juba Arabic, and Spanish are languages used by Alethia and Ryan White (Germany), Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather (South Sudan), Patti and Tim Long (Mexico), and Carlos Bonilla and Mayra Giovanetti (Puerto Rico and Columbia), our four named missionaries. Pray with our four missionary couples as they invite others to “join the circle” by telling the Christmas Story this season.

Christmas Joy Offering

Thanks to each who has given generously to the Christmas Joy! Offering in support of Retired Ministers and Missionaries and our future church leaders. To give JOY! use the envelopes in the pew rack or write “JOY Offering” on a check memo line. Electronic giving is also available on the church’s website.

Can you assist?

Help is needed with Food distribution **Monday, December 19** in the Zion Fellowship Parking Lot 9:40 AM to noon (drive to volunteer parking area)



Cars will drive by and bagged food will be placed in cars. Greet the people in cars as they drive through the distribution line.

Dress warmly and wear gloves, working outdoors (summer photos shown). Many volunteers are needed to permit rotating from the food line to “warming up indoors at Zion”.

You can sign up at Zion Monday morning. Please come. See Cathy Bush or Don Rensberger for additional information.

Food items are delivered in large cartons by FoodLink Rochester

Work with many other community volunteers to bag food for individual families

Cars will be waiting in long lines for distribution as we prepare bags



The Tues evening **prayer shawl knitting group** will **not** be meeting this month. We will meet again the third Tues evening in Jan.

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.

Sunday happenings...

TODAY –

Service at 8:45am

No Sunday School

Service at 11:00am

Sunday, December 25, 2022 –

Service at 11:00am ONLY

Sunday, January 1, 2023 –

Service at 11:00am ONLY

Sunday, January 8, 2023 –

Service at 8:45am

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45am

Service at 11:00am

The Cause, 5-7:30pm

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. 21 – No Youth Club

Dec. 28 – No Youth Club

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

Dec. 21 – No Youth Club

Dec. 28 – No Youth Club

Family Time Themes:

Dec. 21 – No Youth Club

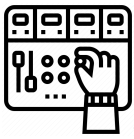
Dec. 28 – No Youth Club

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





We are looking for people interested in helping with the audio support of the 8:45 am 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. We plan to coordinate show and tell training in the next few weeks.

Young Adult Ministry

2023 will be an exciting year of ministry here at the church. As part of our growing efforts to effectively ministry to the young adult community, we are forming a Young Adult Ministry Team. This team will meet periodically and will facilitate Young Adult Ministry, similar to other ministry teams we have in our church.

Are you interested? Contact Mark Slomski to share your interest.

Advent Devotionals for Adults

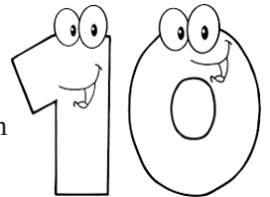
We are offering two different devotionals this season -- one is online and the other is in booklet form. Choose either one or both for daily readings during Advent.

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
 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.
-

Please join us in celebrating Carolyn Russell's 10 year anniversary as our church secretary and financial secretary.



The list of tasks Carolyn completes on a weekly basis seems unending and she manages it all with professionalism, dedication and a smile. Carolyn is a blessing in both of these roles with her commitment, knowledge and hard work.



Next time you see Carolyn please give her a heartfelt Congratulations and Thank You!!



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 **117** pledges of \$347,884.04 to the operating budget and \$94,574 to the missions budget.

Annual Reports now are due! 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 ASAP (unless it includes end of year financials, in which case ASAP after January 1st, please!)



"King's Bell Carol" (anthem)

We three kings rejoice at the sight (sing allelu!)
Christmas bells ring out through the night (sing allelu!)
Angels singing, songs we're bringing, born is the Lord of Light!
Sing allelu!

Wise men come from far and near (sing allelu!)
Shepherds raise a joyful cheer (sing allelu!)
All adoring, songs outpouring, jubilant praise we hear!

Sing allelu! Alleluia, noel! Sing allelu! Alleluia, noel!
He is born, Emmanuel!

We behold the wondrous sight, high above the star shines bright;
Angels singing, songs we're bringing. Sing allelu! Sing allelu!
He is born, the Lord of Light!

c. 1999 Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp.

“Hallelujah, Christ is Born” by Caroline Cobb (Youth Choir song)

In a tiny town, in the dark of night
From a run-down stable, came a baby's cry
He was wrapped in rags
And his parents were poor
But the babe in the manger was Christ the Lord

Ragged shepherds were watching their sheep that night
When the angel chorus, filled the sky with light
"Good news, great joy to this broken land
For the babe in the manger is Christ the Lamb"

Hallelujah, Christ is born!
Hallelujah, the Savior of the world
This is the one we've waited for!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Christ is born

See the wise men journey
From those countries far
Over deserts and mountains
Followin' that star
And they gave him their gifts
And bowed on their knees
For the babe in the manger was Christ the King

Hallelujah, Christ is born!
Hallelujah, the Savior of the world
This is the one we've waited for!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Christ is born

Come and bow in wonder and prepare him room
Come and sing with joy
Over God's good news
Go tell it on the mountain
And in countries far
That the baby in the manger is the King of our hearts

Hallelujah, Christ is born!
Hallelujah, the Savior of the world
This is the one we've waited for!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Christ is born

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Christ is born

For adults that still love puzzles ... (Solution from last week was ESTHER)

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

1. Join horizontally, vertically, and diagonally adjacent pairs of numbers that appear next to each other in the circle.

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.



3	7	4	5	8	6	7	5	0	5
4	8	7	4	6	3	9	6	1	6
2	4	3	7	1	7	4	3	6	4
1	2	6	8	5	4	9	6	8	6
5	4	8	2	7	2	6	7	3	0
4	1	5	3	5	0	5	8	5	1
2	5	2	7	1	4	3	9	3	4
9	4	9	2	6	3	7	8	2	1
3	5	8	7	1	9	8	3	1	2
7	1	6	4	0	4	1	8	3	8

2. Arrange the revealed letters to spell a name from the Bible.

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 Begriiddled 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