

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday in Advent

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE UNITY CANDLE

PRELUDE Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Alfred Fedak

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

Third Sunday in Advent: Joy

A visit from Tamar, the Innkeeper's Wife - Kay Despard

***HYMN** Angels We Have Heard on High #152

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

What shall we do, O God? We can never do enough to deserve your love. We confess that we are not always truthful. We have defaced the purity of your love for us. We have embraced ugliness and oppression rather than loveliness and grace. We have distorted your cries for justice in order to benefit ourselves. We have given less than our best to others and to you. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God has taken away the judgments against us. The evil we have feared cannot triumph. The enemies we have harbored in our own souls will no longer oppress us. Disasters we have experienced are not the last word. God restores us to the family, welcomes us with open arms, and strengthens us for each day's challenges. Praise God, give thanks, and let the world know of God's marvelous deeds.

***GLORIA PATRI** #805

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The children will sing Verse 1 of each carol; Congregation joins for rest

O Little Town of Bethlehem - #154

Away in a Manger - #147

The First Noel - #162 4 verses

O Come, All Ye Faithful - #173

SCRIPTURE Luke 3:7-18 (p. 935)

MEDITATION Rev. James F Deters

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

On insert

PERIOD OF GUIDED PRAYER Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY There's a Song in the Air

David Hegarty

Please sign the friendship pad at the end of the pew and pass it on.

***DOXOLOGY** #809

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

We rejoice, O God of peace, in the privilege of giving without fear. You come to us daily with blessings too numerous to count. You are the Holy One whose presence relieves our anxieties, feeds our hungers, and stirs our compassion. Through our offerings, we express our gratitude. As we give of ourselves, we respond to your call to bear fruit and to make your name known among the nations. Thank you for accepting all we offer. Amen.

***HYMN** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice verses 1, 2 #157

***COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

The whole universe is God's dwelling place.

Find your home with God wherever you go.

**Surely God is our salvation;
we will trust and not be afraid.**

Rejoice, for Christ has come and is coming,
whose presence brings peace to our hearts and minds.

We can do all things in Christ, who strengthens us.

We have much to share with the world.

God, who has blessed you, commissions you for service.

Shout and sing for joy; praise God in all you do.

God has renewed and refreshed us this day.

God's strength will be our song wherever we go. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Refrain only #133

POSTLUDE Noel on a Sicilian Carol Alexandre Guilmant

*All those who are able, please stand.

A WORD ON THE OFFERING

For your convenience, offering plates are placed at each entrance. You are welcome to place your offering in the plate as you enter or during a hymn. The ushers will bring your offering forward later in the service.

Large print bulletins, children's bulletins, and aids for the hearing impaired are available. All people are welcome in the sanctuary; however, a play room is available for kindergarten and younger children needing a place to invest their excitement. There is also a children's room for families who need a quiet space for babies and young children. Please ask an usher for assistance.

ORGANIST Nancy Dufek

CHOIR DIRECTOR Diana Mann

VMIX Lynn Adams **STREAMING AUDIO** Jonathan Deters

SANCTUARY SOUND Rob Sanders

PRODUCTION Lynn Adams

USHERS Cheryl and Bob Drevlow

COFFEE HOSTS Betty Yankee and Cheryl Drevlow

BAKERS Betty Yankee and Alisa Kolwitz

PLAYROOM Alissa Hulstand

Church office hours Monday--Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Rev. James Deters, Pastor upccpastor@gmail.com

Laurel Harnisch, Director of Family Ministry upcc.familyministry@gmail.com

Susan Sanders, Administrative Assistant upcc.office214@gmail.com

Church office phone 715-682-3093

Website: <https://upcchurch.org>

Like us on Facebook at United Presbyterian Congregational Church

Join our Facebook group at UPCC Connection



ACTIVITIES

- 12/18 Noon: AA meeting in lower lounge
 12:15 pm Advent Chapel
 5:30 pm Session meeting
 5:30 pm Youth and family Christmas party
 7:00 pm Choir practice
- 12/22 9:15 am Sunday school Christmas breakfast (Pre-K -High school)
 9:15 am Adult Sunday school
 10:30 am Worship service

BIRTHDAYS

- 17 Seija Anderson
 18 Robert Mahnke
 19 Vernelle Mercer & Karen Kay

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for your generous donations to the BRICK for noisy coin Sunday on December 8th, 2024. You donated lots of coffee for the BRICK: 5 canisters, 13 bags, and 5 containers of instant coffee. You also donated: instant latte, tea bags, non-dairy creamer, saltine crackers, and cans of ravioli. And we collected \$240 in noisy coins.

Please fill out the bulletin insert if you would like to donate **Poinsettia Plants for Christmas Eve Worship**. Please leave these forms on the office desk or take a photo and email it to upcc.office214@gmail.com

Lots of upcoming events. See the bulletin inserts.

Also look at the UPCC website: <https://upcchurch.org/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedPresbyterianCongregationalChurch>

Join our Facebook group at UPCC Connection



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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Faith does not cool our desire for good and holy living
but rather engenders and excites it in us,
leading naturally to good works.

We believe that the sacraments are joined to the Word
in order that the Word may be more fully confirmed.

Baptism is given to us as the pledge of our adoption,
in which we are grafted into the body of Christ,
and renewed in holiness of life by his Spirit.

The holy Supper of our Lord is a testimony
of our unity with Jesus Christ,
who died only once and was raised for our sake.



Christmas Eve plant donations

If you would like to donate a Christmas plant for the sanctuary for Christmas Eve worship, please fill out the information below and return to the church office. Please deliver or have your plant(s) delivered to the church no EARLIER than December 19th. This ensures that the plants will look fresh and vibrant for the service. Thank you!

Number of plant(s) _____

Name(s) of plant donor(s):

In Memory of:

I/we will be taking home the plant(s) after the December 24th worship services:

Name _____ Yes _____ No _____



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YOU ARE INVITED TO

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YOUTH & FAMILY

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CHRISTMAS PARTY

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5:30 TO 7:00 PM

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18 DECEMBER

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SNACKS | PIZZA | CRAFTS | MOVIE
WEAR YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS OUTFIT

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WEAR YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS OUTFIT

214 VAUGHN AVE | ENTRANCE #5
UPCC.FAMILYMINISTRY@GMAIL.COM
715-682-3093

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Luke 3:7-18 (p. 935)

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.