

PRAYER: Lord, in faith, Joseph and Mary trusted you. May we grow in our ability to trust, and always rely on you. Amen.

SONG "Carol of the Child" Hannibal/Nix  
OFFERING/OFFERTORY "What Child is This?" Traditional English Melody  
Ken Mehalko, woodwinds

SIXTH LESSON Reading: Luke 2:1-18  
*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

PRAYER: Lord, you came to us as a child, in humility and vulnerability. May we always show loving care to those around us, especially those who need it most. Amen.

SONG "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Praetorius  
Lisa Heinrich, flute

SEVENTH LESSON Reading: Matthew 2:1-12  
*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."*

PRAYER: Lord, you are the giver of all good gifts. Teach us to freely share our gifts with others, for the glory of your name. Amen.

SONG "Is There Room in Your Heart for a King?" Stewart/Hayes

EIGHTH LESSON Reading: John 1:1-4; 14  
*In the beginning, the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. From the very beginning the Word was with God.*

PRAYER: God of power and might, you are beyond all time and space. May we never fail to recognize your majesty and give praise to you in all we do. Amen.

SHARING THE LIGHT/ HYMN 253 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

NINTH LESSON Reading: Matthew 28:16-20  
*Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

PRAYER: Lord, you call us to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. Give us words filled with the power of Love. Help us proclaim your good news with our whole lives. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 270 "Joy to the World!"  
BENEDICTION "The Work of Christmas" Howard Thurman  
POSTLUDE "Joy to the World!" arr. Raney

The United Church of Christ  
(Congregational)

# Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service  
of Lessons and Carols



Wednesday, December 24, 2025  
11:00 p.m.



# The United Church of Christ (Congregational)

Rev. Heidi Denman McDougall, Pastor

Christmas Eve Worship 11 p.m.

† Please stand as you are comfortable.

## PRELUDER

“Some Children See Him” Burt  
Dave Williams, vocalist

## WELCOME

INTROIT “Sing We Now of Christmas” French Carol

## † RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Tonight, we come to glorify God, rejoicing with all Creation in the birth of the Savior.

P: God comes, so we might believe, and be blessed.

L: Our hearts leap for joy, for God is coming to us as a child.

P: God comes for those who hunger for hope, and for those who thirst for grace.

L: Holy is the One who comes in God's name, fulfilling every promise of God.

P: God comes to walk with those who follow in faith, to bring peace to our shattered world.

†OPENING HYMN 249 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

FIRST LESSON Reading: Genesis 1 (excerpts)

*God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased.*

*Evening passed and morning came—that was the sixth day.*

PRAYER: Lord of mercy, in spite of our sinfulness, your love for us never wavered. Fill our hearts with your mercy. Teach us to love; show us how to forgive one another. Amen.

HYMN 278 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

SECOND LESSON Reading: Jeremiah 23:5-6

*This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.*

PRAYER: Lord, you have promised that your reign would be a time of never-ending justice and peace. May we have the courage to bring your justice in our time. Amen.

SONG “Come, Emmanuel” Price/Besig

THIRD LESSON Reading: Isaiah 11: 1- 9

*The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.*

PRAYER: Lord, we eagerly wait for the day of your perfect peace. May we work together for peace, in our hearts, in our families and in our world. Amen.

## HYMN

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator, family all are we.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment, and live each moment, in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

## FOURTH LESSON

*He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

PRAYER: God, you are always with us. May we always trust in your presence, and let our light shine brightly in the world. Amen.

SONG “I Wonder as I Wander” Niles  
Craig Hardy, vocalist

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Rachel & Oliver Zielinski

Leader: In a world where so many people live in despair, God lights a Candle of Hope in our hearts.

People: **“By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation. You are our Hope, to the ends of the earth and the farthest seas.”**

Leader: In a world where so many people experience hatred, God lights a Candle of Love in our hearts.

People: **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, so that everyone who believes in him would not perish, but have everlasting life.”**

Leader: In a world where so many people are living with sorrow, God lights a Candle of Joy in our hearts.

People: **“The root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will find hope in him.”**

Leader: In a world where so many people experience violence, God lights a Candle of Peace in our hearts.

People: **“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

Leader: In a world where so many people wait in darkness, light comes into our hearts, through a baby born in a manger. He is Emmanuel, God with Us! This is the word of the Lord:

People: **“For to us a child is born; to us a Son is given. He shall be called Wonderful Counselor; Almighty God; Everlasting Father; Prince of Peace.”**

Leader: The Light that shines in the darkness cannot be extinguished.

People: Thanks be to God.

## HYMN 273

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice!”

FIFTH LESSON Reading: Luke 1:26-38

*It was in the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy when God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.*



## WOULD YOU LIKE A WAY TO SERVE GOD AND SERVE YOUR CHURCH AT THE SAME TIME? How about volunteering to serve on a church board or committee?

The Nominating Committee, through the Official Board, will be looking for church members to fill the many open positions on our boards. Please consider saying **YES** when a member of the Nominating Committee asks you to serve. Some of the positions that are available include:

**Moderator**, who presides over the Official Board and represents the church in the community

**Vice-Moderator**, who works in tandem with the Moderator, serves on the Nominating Committee, and enlists volunteers for dinners and other Official Board events.

**Treasurer**: Manages the outgoing finances of the church in conjunction with the Financial Secretary

**Diaconate**, which oversees the worship operations and church services. The committees of the Diaconate are Acolytes, Altar, Coffee Hour, Funeral, Greeters, Membership, Nursery, Pastoral Relations, Special Events and Ushers

**Board of Trustees**, which oversees the finances and physical plant of the church. The committees of the Trustees are Building and Grounds, Finance, and Long-Range Planning and Memorial/Endowment

**Mission & Outreach**, which sponsors projects and our church's benevolence in the local, national, and international communities, including the 5 for 5 offerings through the United Church of Christ

**Stewardship**, which administers a yearly campaign to assess and inspire giving of time, talent, and treasure

**Christian Education**, which oversees the Sunday School and Adult Education programs

**Music Committee**, which supervises all aspects of the Music Ministry

Remember the old but true saying, *Many hands make light work*. Plan to be a part of one of these boards or committees. Thank you for your consideration.

### THE CHRISTMAS FUND

Formerly known as Veterans of the Cross, this special offering of the United Church of Christ provides direct financial assistance to retired and active United Church of Christ authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks. A ministry of the Pension Boards, the offering is received throughout December. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks.



### ANNUAL REPORTS

**Chairmen of church organizations**: Annual reports are to be submitted electronically and are due in the church office on **January 4, 2026**. Please be kind and email your reports in on time. Thank you!!!

Once completed, Annual Reports will be available for pickup prior to the Annual Meeting.



### Serving this evening

Readers: Dave Williams, Rob Toth, Tom Foley

Advent Candle Lighters: Rachel & Oliver Zielinski

Greeters: Barbara & John Toth

Director of Music: Thomas M. Foley

Associate Director of Music: Mike Elkins

Organ: Sharon Heinrich

Soloists: Dave Williams, Craig Hardy

Clarinet/Sax: Ken Mehalko

Flute: Lisa Heinrich

Guitar: Will Foley

Sound/Video: Jim Heinrich & Doug Thorn

Our Christmas Chancel Choir: Ingrid Dickson, Will Foley, Craig Hardy, Irene Joyce, Sarah Keenen, Marianne Luca, Sharon Maresco, Sandy

**O'Shea, Scott Pritchard**, Sarah Toth, Robert Toth, Dave Williams



**BE A GREETER!** A new sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area is waiting for your name to be added as a greeter. No experience is necessary—we will show you everything you need to know. Being a greeter is a wonderful way to get to know people and welcome them to worship!

Also, please sign up to sponsor altar flowers for 2026. The chart is in Pilgrim Hall.



### HYMN SING SUNDAY--DECEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>!

The last Sunday of 2025!

Celebrate the end of an eventful year with your church family as we worship and sing together during our 10 a.m. worship.

### CHURCH CHRISTMAS MAIL BOX

To send Christmas greetings to fellow members and friends,

**the church "mail box" is again available in the Gathering Area.** Please remember to check the box for greetings you receive. Also, please do not put cards in the box for friends who are not in town for Christmas. The church office cannot mail your personal Christmas cards. Cards left after Christmas will be discarded. Thank you.



If you were kind enough to place a poinsettia on the **altar for tonight's services**, please take your plant home with you following worship. Remaining plants will be given to those in need of a little Christmas cheer.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Church office will be closed tomorrow, December 25<sup>th</sup>. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

To the Glory of God,  
**the poinsettias are given...**



One more light for those all alone or spending that first holiday without a loved one. Leaving a light on for those who **don't want to be here this season**

Serena Abruzzino

Merry Christmas with love to my mom, Dorothy Ritchie  
Gina Cathcart

For the loving Davis & Heglund families  
For the loving Demichei & Penasa families  
Roger and Judy Davis

In loving memory of a dear sister, Gwen Giddings  
In memory of family and friends  
Jim and Linda Dettmer

In honor of our church musicians  
Carol Foley

In loving memory of Bill Fraunfelder  
In loving memory of my parents, Don and Betty Bushea  
And my grandmother, Ethel Perrin  
Barb Fraunfelder

In loving memory of my parents, Anita and Bill McKenna  
Dennis Smith and Barb Fraunfelder

In memory of our parents and grandparents, Donald & Betty Babics  
The Gigliotti and Kubancik Families

In memory of our parents and grandparents, Joanne & Louis Gigliotti, Sr.  
The Gigliotti Family

In loving memory of our parents Don & Lois Winch  
and William & Ruth Giuliano, and brother, Mark Giuliano  
Bill and Beth Giuliano

In loving memory of Charles & Thelma Hawk  
In loving memory of Richard & Sally Mack  
With love to Riley, Jack, Lacey, Ella, and Henry from Nana & Papa  
Dale and Cathy Hawk

In memory of my husband, George Hemphill  
In memory of my parents, Tom and Nancy Stewart  
Marsha Hemphill

In loving memory of Erik O. Jannsohn, John W. Dickson  
and Mary Joyce-Smith & James J. Joyce, Sr.  
The Joyce-Jannsohn-Dickson Family

In loving memory of Aimee J. Jannsohn, Eric R. Jannsohn,  
Michael E. & Deborah Dickson, and Brooke M. Akins  
The Dickson-Joyce-Jannsohn Family

Merry Christmas, Trevor and Abby!  
Love, Aunt Sarah Keenen

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kundtz  
Rev. Jill Kundtz

In loving memory of Bruce Lerch, Winifred & Carol Lerch and  
William, Gertredude, and William & Mary Hackman  
Susann Lerch

A babe in a manger brings fresh HOPE; let our LOVE fill our actions;  
in JOY may we serve; and may we live together in PEACE.  
Pastor Heidi

In memory of Max and Elsie DeWitt, Sarah Perciak, James Perciak,  
Elton & Virginia Bedford, and Michael & Erma Kalanich  
Tom and Debbie Perciak

In memory of our family members: George Reed, Sr., Marie Wolf,  
Paul & Eileen Mlincek, and Dave Mlincek  
George and Joyce Reed

In memory of Bill--Dad--Papa  
In loving memory Pete & Edna Lansell and Leroy & Rusha Ritchie  
Dorothy Ritchie and family

In loving memory of our grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Clements  
In loving memory of our parents, Roger and Lorna Robinson  
In loving memory of our aunt, Rhea Clements and our uncle, Bill Clements  
Becky and Bill Robinson

In loving memory of our departed family members: Jean, Joe, and Mick Rung:  
Willie Mae, Jimmy Lee, Sr., Jimmy Lee Jr., and Ruby Cuyler  
Sam, Lora, Samuel, and Braxden

In loving memory of our grandparents, especially Grandpa Davis  
In loving memory of Uncle Rudy  
The Sekorky Family

*Merry Christmas! In Loving Memory of: Tad & Gen Thorn, Tom O'Shea & Mae O'Shea, Alan Van Kramer, Susan Tressa, Charles Garner, Mike Lucan, Jan Stough, Thomas Raymond, and in honor of Dick Colmery. A very blessed new year to all!*  
Sandy O'Shea, Doug, Schyler, Devin, and Leo Thorn

Merry Christmas!  
Bev Wehr and Ken Mehalko

In loving memory of Bob Zimmerman  
Mary Ellen Zimmerman

