

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Sunday, December 10, 2023**

**Worship Service 10:45 a.m.**

*Pastor: Rev. Gerald Gammon (330) 306-8965*

*Director of Music: Karen Fumerola*

*Organist: Barbara Edwards*

*(\*Please stand, if you are able, at each asterisk.)*

**Welcome to our Sunday service. Please use the time during the Prelude to prepare yourself for worship in quiet reflection and prayer and allow others to do the same.**

Piano Duet "In the Bleak Midwinter" *Gustav Holst*  
(Lighting of the Candles)

Greeting

Pastor: "The peace of Christ be with you."

People: "And also with you."

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Gerald Gammon

Let us begin our worship today:

Choral Introit #241 "Arise, Shine" *Steven Urspringer & Jay Robinson*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Sheryl Cozad

\*Call to Worship: Sharon Longworth

Leader: Christ Jesus, You are the hope of the world!

**All: We praise You with the Father and the Spirit!**

Leader: Blessed are we to receive Your love!

**All: Glory be to You, O Lord!**

Leader: Great is the gift of Your presence in our lives!

**All: May we cherish Your favor always.**

Leader: Help us to bring the hope of Your Good News to the world.

**All: We pray in Your most holy name, amen.**

\*Hymn #245 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

\*Unison Invocation:

**All: Almighty God, Father of us all, we worship You and praise You for our creation and for all that You have blessed us with. You, O God, sent us Jesus to bring us hope and salvation, and we are forever grateful. Blessed are we to be counted as Your own. May You be honored and glorified throughout eternity. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.**

Solo "Ring the Bell" *Harry Bollback*  
Soloist: Judy Fabian

\*Gloria Patri #812 "Glory Be to the Father"

Joys and Concerns/Time of Silent Prayer/The Lord's Prayer (debt and debtors)  
Prayer Response #292 "O come to my heart" *Timothy Matthews*

Anthem "Come, Emmanuel" *Don Besig*

Offering Prayer/Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Some Children See Him" *Alfred Burt*

\*Doxology #815 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

\*Apostles Creed (May be found in the back cover of the hymnal)

Hymn #196 "O Come Let Us Adore Him"

Scripture **Isaiah 40: 1-11** (pg. 667-668 O.T.) Sharon Longworth

**2 Peter 3: 8-15a** (pg. 8 N.T.)

"Celtic Alleluia" *Fintan O'Carroll & Christopher Walker*

Gospel **Mark 1: 1-8** (pg. 34 N.T.)

Pastor: "This is the Word of our Lord"

**All: "Thanks be to God."**

Sermon "Give Hope" Rev. Gerald Gammon

\*Hymn #279 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

\*Benediction

Postlude "The Light of the World Is Jesus" *Philip Bliss*  
(Organ/Piano)

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NOTE: Scripture readings are from NRSV Bible

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

12/10/2023

Please call the church office or fill out a prayer card if you would like to put someone on the prayer chain or prayer list.

**Thought for the Week: How can I bring the hope of Christ to others?**

**Next week:** Liturgist/Lay Reader: Judy Fabian

**Advent:** Thank you to all who have signed up to read and light the candles of our Advent Wreath.

**Congregational Meeting:** There will be a meeting on Sunday, December 17, after worship where the budget for 2024 will be presented for discussion and approval, as will candidates for two Elder positions that will serve our church for the next three years. Please plan to attend.

**Family Christmas Party:** Don't forget about the party this evening at 5:30 p.m. Please bring a covered dish and your own tableware. Beverages will be provided. Our entertainment will be Lock-4, a barbershop quartet from Akron, Ohio with a combined experience of over 100 years of singing music. Come and join us for a great night of food, fellowship, and entertainment.

**Staff Gifts:** Sharon Longworth will be collecting for staff gifts until after worship today.

**Christmas Eve Service:** The Christmas Eve service will take place at 6:30 p.m. Readers are needed for this service. The readings and a sign up sheet are available in the church lobby.

**The Valley Senior Choir:** Judy Fabian's group will perform at the McKinley Memorial Museum in Niles on Friday, December 15th, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**Sunday School:** There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 24 and Sunday, December 31.

**Angie Wiland's Service:** Carl Hall Funeral Home on Monday, December 11, 2023. Viewing is at 12:00 p.m. with the service at 1:00 p.m.

	12/3/23	12/10/23	12/17/23	12/24/23	12/31/23
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>26</b>				
Benevolent					
Building Fund					
Current Expenses	\$1,121.25				
Floating Five	\$ 91.00				
Benevolence	\$ 55.00				
Poinsettias	\$ 49.50				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,316.75</b>				

<b>November Income</b>	<b>November Expenditures</b>	<b>November Net</b>
\$4,307.50	\$8,115.12	-\$3,807.62

<b>Prayer List</b>	<b>Shut-ins</b>
American People Donna Beavers Becky Callahan Betsy Chapley Dave Davis Rodger Davis Phil Fletcher Ruth Gilbert Dean Mahalick Peggy Marshall	Larry Mattison Norma Patchin Mary Sabol Layes Wood  Those affected by the conflicts throughout the world.  Lyon/Busko Family Wiland/ Family Williams Family

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Sunday, Dec. 10	Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, Dec. 10	Family Christmas Party 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 13	Choir Rehearsal 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 17	Communion/Congregational Mtg./Bake Sale P/U