

WAYS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Call the church office at 715-392-4751.



Follow us on Facebook.

HELPFUL TO KNOW

If you'd like to join us for Sunday worship service live, please go to our Facebook page or YouTube and connect with the following link:

<http://upc-superior.com/youtube>

Please feel free to place any questions you may have by replying in the comments section (YouTube), or contact the church office by phone or email and request to be added to our email list.

PRAYER REQUEST

The Pastor is always glad to share prayer requests during the Prayer Time during each worship service. You can share a prayer request online in the comments section (YouTube) and by contacting the church by email or phone.

The Prayer Chain may be activated by calling
Jan Heckman at 715-392-1072 (jan_KB9LTA@yahoo.com) or
Dean Hecht at 715-398-6532.

Choirmaster & Handbell Director
Church Secretary
Custodian
**Director of Children,
Youth & Family Ministries**
Financial Secretary
Nursery Coordinator
Organist & Pianist
Pastor
Treasurer

Jane Wester
Tiffany Willie
Beth Lisak

Laura Foote
Jan Letsos
Iris Miller
Alexander Sandor
Rev. Brett M. Foote
Christy Willmore



**UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN
—CHURCH—**

*A congregation of the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

229 North 28th Street East

Superior, WI 54880

Office: 715-392-4751

Pastor: 717-247-4433

unitedpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/UnitedPresbyterianChurch

Online Worship

Third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday

December 11th, 2022

10:00 a.m.

If you are joining us online, please light a candle to remind yourself of the presence of God.

* Please rise in body or spirit.

If the text is bolded, everyone is invited to say the words in unison.

PRELUDE Alex Sandor

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Peterson & McGraw Family

***INTROIT** Advent Candle
(Choir sings verse, congregation joins for chorus)

Advent candles warm and bright
Fill the world with radiant light.
Help us find the Promised One;
Guide us to the child who will come. x2

***HYMN** To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary #98

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

One: Let us Pray.

God of mercy,

**All: A million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious,
to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt.**

One: A million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't.

**All: Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel.
Comparison and critique lead the charge.**

One: Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph. Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood. Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.

All: Give us the courage to love even bigger than before, and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Family of Faith, hear this good news:

We who have chosen wrong, are given a second chance.

We who have lost our way, are welcomed into community.

We who feel alone, are seen, held, and known.

This is the good news of the gospel- No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way, in Christ,

All: God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

You are invited to bless those around you with the words, "Christ be with you." In response you may say "And also with you!" (You may pass the peace in the comments section.)

RESPONSE (Choir will lead, congregation responds)

Jesus, Jesus O What a Wonderful Child #126

Children are invited to gather in the narthex for Children's Church.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS TO OUR COMMUNITY

Presentation of Londa Hatch, Elda & LeRoy Hanson, Connie Noble, and Kirsten Standen

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Written by Rev. Sarah Speed and Adapted by Pastor Brett)

One: Let us affirm our faith together.

All: We believe in a God who offers second chances and does not hold grudges.

We believe in a God who opens the door to new life and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost.

We believe in a God who believes in us—believes that we can make a difference, that we can choose grace over comparison, love over hate, peace over war.

We believe in a God who chooses us, Superior, Duluth, all of it.

And so we strive to live our lives in love.

We strive to listen as Joseph listened, and to be the people that God calls us to be.

It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

This we believe. Amen.

WELCOME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Reading

Joan Johnson

Isaiah 35:1-10

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM

Christmas Rejoicing

SERMON "Don't Wait: Showing Up In Our Families" Rev. Brett M Foote
New Testament Reading Matthew 1:18-25

***HYMN** My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout #100

MOMENT FOR MISSION

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***RESPONSE**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Alex Sandor

#133

O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him;

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord! (2x)

PRAYER OVER OFFERING

One: Let us bless these gifts.

All: God of step-fathers and adopted parents, God of angel messengers and newborn kings, we bow our heads today with praise on our lips. We offer all our gifts to you: Our lives, our passions, and more. Bless our tithes and offerings. Help us to serve and love alongside our neighbors for the betterment of our community. May we be good stewards of your gifts and may we be loving neighbors. May all those who have been pushed aside find in us good friends and companions on the journey. As we give our time, talents, or treasures, may we reflect Christ to others. Help us to connect with, serve, and care for our community so that Superior, South Range, Poplar, Maple, and Duluth may know your boundless joy from generation to generation. Amen.

Prayers to be Shared Please email or call the church with your prayer requests or share them in the comments section. (YouTube)

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN While We Are Waiting, Come #92
*BENEDICTION
*POSTLUDE Alex Sandor

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

United Presbyterian Church Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY 12/11

8:45 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Morning Worship
10:15 AM Children's Church
11:30 AM Second Sunday Bible Study
Christmas Caroling—Following Service
6 PM Boy Scouts

MONDAY 12/12

4 PM Piano Lessons
5 PM F&O Hike
7:30 PM Piano Lessons

TUESDAY 12/13

3:45 PM Piano Lessons
4 PM Pickleball
4:30 PM Worship Committee

WEDNESDAY 12/14

12 PM Staff Meeting
2-6 PM CSA Pickup
3:45 PM Piano Lessons
6:30 PM Personnel Meeting

THURSDAY 12/15

5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal
7 PM AA Meeting

FRIDAY 12/16

7 PM Superior Singers Concert

SATURDAY 12/17

9 AM Piano Recital

Birthdays This Week

12/13 Bonnie Gronquist
12/15 Duane Aslyn
12/16 Warren Nelson
12/16 Sue Olson
12/17 Heidi Carswell

LOOKING AHEAD

December 18
December 24

Community Dinner, Christmas Pageant
Christmas Eve Service (4 & 9 PM)

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN DONATE ONLINE?

At United Presbyterian Church, we offer many opportunities to give of yourself to glorify God. From signing up to volunteer to donating financially, if you'd like to support the mission and vision of the church you can do so at the following link:

<https://www.upc-superior.com/donate>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CURRENT COVID PROCEDURES

As of Friday, December 9th, Douglas County is at a Low COVID-19 Community Level. At this level, the Session-approved guidelines recommend that our community members stay up to date on vaccinations, mask in spaces with older folks and other potentially immunocompromised individuals, and stay home when sick.

LITURGIST & COFFEE HOUR SIGN UP

There are two sign up sheets at the back of the Narthex, one to sign up to host our coffee hours following the service, and one where you can sign up to be a liturgist during our Sunday worship services. These are both great opportunities to get involved with the church!

COME JOIN US!

The Bell Choir is looking for a new member. If you would like to join this great group, please contact Jane. Also, the Chancel Choir has empty seats. We'd love to fill them all and add more. Please give it a try. Show up for practice at 8:45 Sunday morning!

UPC COMMUNITY GARDEN SEEDMONEY FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN HAPPENING NOW

The UPC Community Garden Committee is fundraising for our 2023 garden through an organization called SeedMoney. SeedMoney aids nonprofits in raising money for garden projects and offers them grants based on how much money they raise in comparison to other projects. Last year, we raised enough by this means to receive a \$200 grant! So, to help us have the funds for seeds and plants, dirt and fertilizer, raised bed materials, additional fencing, and more for the 2023 garden, please consider donating. The SeedMoney fundraising period is November 15 to December 15, so NOW is the time! Go to <https://donate.seedmoney.org/7797/united-presbyterian-church-community-garden-to-donate>. If you'd like assistance in making the donation, someone from the committee will be available in the narthex after the service to lend a hand.

FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH NEWS

Pickleball will continue on Tuesdays from 4-6 PM.

Volleyball will continue on Sundays from 6-7:30 PM.

December 11th— Would you like a family or individual photo to be included in our church directory? We have decided to extend this project to include this Sunday, December 11th.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING IS BACK THIS YEAR— This Sunday, December 11th following church. Please make sure to dress warmly.

Our next hike will take place tomorrow, December 12th at 5:00 PM. Warm beverages and a yummy snack will be provided after a brief walk to a beautiful overlook, where you can see the Bentleyville Christmas lights. You will not want to miss a view like this. The hike will start at 705 W. 9th Street, Duluth, MN. **Suppose you need a ride, no worries. Meet at the church for carpooling at 4:30 PM.**

January 1st- New Year Get-together at the Lisak's House. Please join us for a fun day of sledding, skating, boot hockey, snowshoeing, ice fishing, indoor games, and fellowship. Potluck lunch to begin at noon. See you there! (4519 E. Pleasant View Rd. Superior, WI 54880)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INCLUSIVE CARE UNIT

We are currently accepting: **mittens, hats, scarves, hand warmers, coats, toiletry items (toothbrushes, toilet paper, bars of soap, etc.), and non-liquid, sealed food items.** Please bring donations in during office hours or on Sunday morning. *Thank you for your donations!*

NURSERY AVAILABILITY

Our nursery is staffed 15 minutes before the service begins for children who are newborn through 4 years old. Stop by the Nursery and meet Iris, our Nursery Coordinator and her volunteer assistants. Once checked in, your young ones can play in a safe environment during worship.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

After the Passing the Peace portion of our service, children ages 5 through 5th grade are invited to Children's Church! This is a time designed specifically for our young ones to learn and grow in their faith. Children's Church takes place in the Youth room, which is next to the Nursery.

SECOND SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Every second Sunday of the month there is a Bible study for our high school students. We will meet in the Youth room after the service. Don't worry, we'll have snacks for any grumbling bellies. Our next one will be this Sunday, December 11.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Next Sunday, December 18 we will be having our annual Christmas program and all ages are invited to join! We will practice at 8:30a on December 18 with the program taking place during the service. Breakfast will be provided. Please let Laura know if you are planning to come!

MISSION TRIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING

There will be an informational meeting for students (Grades 7-12), parents, and guardians about a summer mission trip to Dallas, Texas. The meeting will be this Sunday, December 11 after the service and will take place in the Youth Room. Come learn more about this exciting opportunity!

WINTER YOUTH RETREAT

All students grades 7-12 are invited to our presbytery-wide youth retreat!

When: February 17-19

Where: Camp Amnicon

Cost: \$25

Theme: Know & Be Known

The last day to register is January 22. If you have questions or want to register, reach out to Laura after the service or by sending an email to: lmfoote.upc@gmail.com.

POINSETTIAS

Next Sunday, December 18th, is the last day to turn in Poinsettia orders. If you need another form, they are available at the back of the Narthex, or in the office.

TUPPERWARE GIVE BACK DAY

Tupperware Holiday Stop-N-Shop, brought to you by Elda and Leroy Hanson! Wednesday, December 14th, 10 AM—7 PM at the Tupperware Center, 1225 Tower Ave Suite 110 (Badger Building). Use the 13th Street Private entrance on the SW corner of the building. Stop by for apple cider or coffee! *25% of all sales on the 14th will be given to UPC!*



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

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WAYS TO GIVE



Through your
congregation



Donate by
credit card online at
pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Text
CHRISTMASJOY
to 91999
to give or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Cover: Communion by Debby Hudson; Minerals by Orfeas Green

THANK YOU, GOD

for connecting us.

Thank you for neighbors,
each with needs and gifts
to share, and for our church,
the Whole Church, together,
and for Jesus Christ,

Amen.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future.

50%

of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.



Retired since 2007, Rev. Ben Franklin Whitfield suffered a stroke in January 2021. Facing financial hardships after a lifetime in ministry serving primarily rural congregations, Ben and his wife Helen, received help from the Presbytery of Wabash Valley and the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions in the form of an Emergency Assistance grant and a monthly Housing Supplement for Retirees receiving Home Health Care. As he recovers, Ben — who had earlier served as a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools and Indianapolis Public Schools — is working toward regaining enough strength to start tutoring out of their home.

“How greatly we understand the uniqueness of the Presbyterian Church in its call to help people as Christ commands. And now, having so carefully laid out the importance of giving to the Christmas Joy Offering in the rural area congregations where Ben was pastor, we are so grateful to directly benefit from such financial assistance.”

— Helen Whitfield



50%

of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Growing up in a low-income family in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Kyley Thompson was determined to follow in her grandmother's footsteps of receiving a college education, so she enrolled, even with the prohibitive cost. Stillman College, a small, close-knit community right there in her own backyard became Thompson's whole world. Her teachers helped her secure financial support for her studies and sometimes, her rent. Thanks to this support, Kyley graduated with honors — and with a presidential fellowship to do historical research at Stillman waiting for her.

“The money you give goes directly to students and keeps them in college. Like me, many students often feel like they are hanging by a thread. Your donation fills in the threads and makes a rope — a lifeline of financial assistance.”

— Kyley Thompson

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY...
FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!



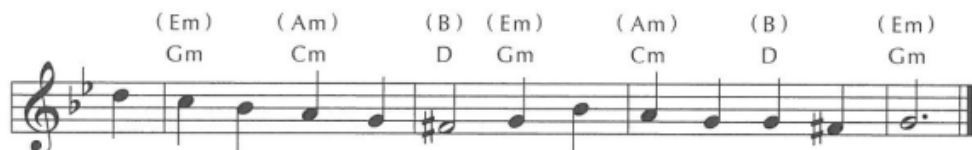
98 To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary



1 To a maid whose name was Mar - y, the an - gel Ga-briel came.
2 "For you are high - ly fa-vored by God the Lord of all,
3 But Mar-y was most trou-bled to hear the an-gel's word.
4 "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
5 "How shall this be?" said Mar - y, "I am not yet a wife."
6 As Mar-y heard the an - gel, she won-dered at his words.



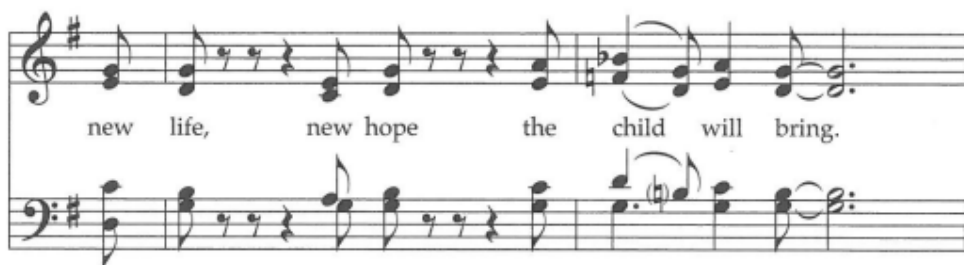
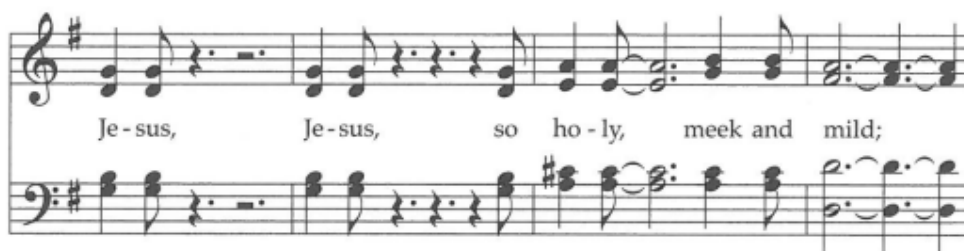
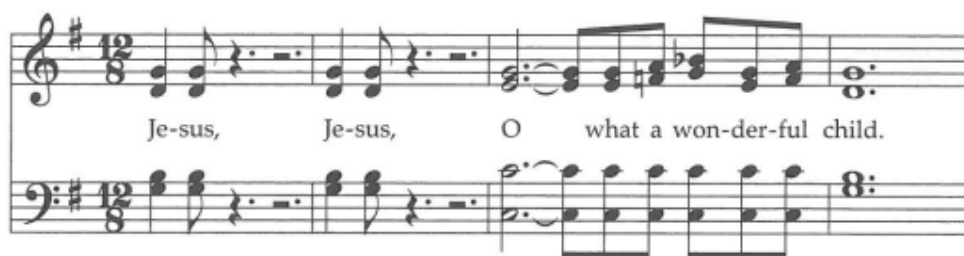
"Fear not," the an - gel told her, "I come to bring good news;
who e - ven now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
What was the an - gel say - ing? It trou-bled her to hear,
His name shall be called Je - sus, God's off-spring from on high.
The an - gel an-swered quick - ly, "The power of the Most High
"Be - hold, I am your hand-maid," she said un - to her God.



good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."
you are most blest, most bless - ed; God chose you, you are blest!"
to hear the an - gel's mes - sage, it trou-bled her to hear.
And he shall reign for - ev - er, for - ev - er reign on high."
will come up - on you short - ly, your child shall be God's child."
"So be it; I am read - y ac - cord - ing to your word."

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child 126



100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



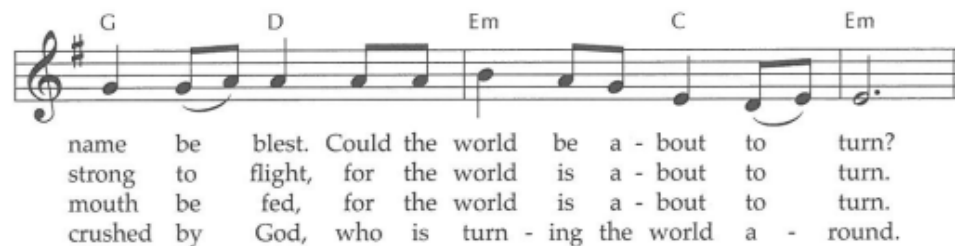
won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

92 While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;
 2 With power and glo - ry, come;
 3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.
 with power and glo - ry, come.
 come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.