



**United Presbyterian Church
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**Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018 10:00 a.m.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE Alex Sandor

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Christy Willmore

*INTROIT (You may remain seated.)

**Keep your lamps trimmed and burning;
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning;
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
For the time is drawing nigh.
Sisters, don't grow weary;
Brothers, don't grow weary;
Children, don't grow weary,
For the time is drawing nigh.**

(#350)

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE
The Lamers/McClellan Family

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Isaiah 12:2-6*

One: Surely God is my salvation;

All: I will trust, and will not be afraid,

One: The Lord God is my strength and my might;

All: The Lord has become my salvation.

One: With joy we will draw water from the wells of salvation.

All: We will say on that day, "Give thanks to the Lord and call on God's name"

One: We will make known God's deeds among the nations and glorify the Lord's name.

All: Sing praises to the Lord, for God has done gloriously;

One: Let this be known in all the earth.

All: Shout aloud and sing for joy, for the Holy One of Israel is in your midst.

*HYMN *Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn* #107

*AN ADVENT PRAYER

One: In peace let us pray.

All: Make glad our hearts, O God, for you have brought us once again to this season of rejoicing. Though the world may seem dark and sometimes terrifying, you promise to come and be with us. You abide among us. Sometimes we are so overwhelmed we cannot see you. There are times we see, but do not recognize you. Bless us with the joy that comes when we know that you are here among us. Give us peace. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

You are invited to share the blessing of Christ's peace with those near you by saying, "The peace of Christ be with you."

RESPONSE

**He came down that we might have peace;
He came down that we might have peace;
He came down that we might have peace;
Hallelujah forevermore.**

**He came down that we might have joy;
He came down that we might have joy;
He came down that we might have joy;
Hallelujah forevermore.** (#137)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sue Olson

Old Testament Reading ***Zephaniah 3:14-17***
Gospel Reading ***Luke 2: 1-20***

ANTHEM *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

J. Baptiste Calkin, arr. by Wagner
Handbell Choir Jane Wester, Director

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The Good News Hour

By Ellen Green

Camera Operator – Abi	Motley Crew of Animals and People
Anchor 1- Anna	Innkeeper – Zach
Anchor 2 – Andrew	Shepherd- Alicia
Mary -	Shepherd 2 - Kathy
Joseph – Joey	Wise Person 1 - Claire
Donkey – Owen	Wise Person 2 – Tyler
Reporter 1 -Alice	Wise Person 3 – Keaton
Reporter 2 – Lindsey	Kid at Nativity – Claire
Emperor Augustus – Willem	Passerby – Ashton

The following carols are a part of today's pageant.

Please remain seated and join in singing:

Away in a Manger (verse 1)	#115
Angels We Have Heard on High (verses 1-3)	#113
The First Nowell (verse 1)	#147
What Child Is This? (verses 1-3)	#145
Joy to the World! (verses 1 and 4)	#134

OFFERING

MOMENT FOR MISSION Farm Bundle Dolores Larson
OFFERTORY

***HYMN OF DEDICATION**

**O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's
delight!**

**O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.**

**You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and
goodwill,**

To bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.

In patient expectation we live for that great day

When your renewed creation your glory shall display.

(#104)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

One: Let us pray together.

**All: We bring our offerings and gifts to You, Lord Jesus.
Most importantly, we bring our joyful hearts, for it
has been said that you love cheerful giving. For this
day, for this season, and for children and youth,
here and everywhere, we give you thanks. Amen.**

TIME FOR PRAYER

PRAYERS TO BE SHARED

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

Christmas Pastoral Prayer
based on Ted Loder's

“Let the Morning Star Rise” in Guerrillas of Grace
Lord God, in the deepest night, there rises the star of
morning, of birth, the herald of a new day you are
making. It is a day of great joy dawning in yet faint
shafts of light and love.

We hear whispers of peace in the stillness, fresh
breezes of promise stirring, winter sparrows chirping
and a baby's cry of need and hope. In the darkness we
see the light and find in it comfort, confidence, and
cause for celebration.

We rejoice to nourish that light in ourselves, in other people, and in the world. We think of those this day who struggle to find light in the darkness, whether the darkness of infirmity, addiction, or illness; whether the darkness of depression, terror, or war; whether the darkness of doubt, or disaster, or loneliness.

Be light for all of us, for the sake of the child who was born and shines forever, Jesus, the Messiah. *Amen.*

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, and 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.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT OUR LIFE TOGETHER

***CLOSING HYMN** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* #132

*RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

One: Rejoice in the Lord, always; again I say, Rejoice.

All: Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

One: The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything.

All: Make your requests known to God in prayer.

One: And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

*POSTLUDE

Alex Sandor

Many thanks to everyone who participated in planning and leading today's worship service. "The Good News Hour" by Ellen M. Green is licensed under CC By-NC-SA 4.0. Modified by Christy Willmore.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Zephaniah 3:14-17*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

GOSPEL READING *Luke 2: 1-20*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will

be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

United Presbyterian Church Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY 12/16

9:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. Worship – Christmas Pageant

4:00 p.m. Community Dinner

6:00 p.m. Scout Troop 221 Christmas Party

6:00 p.m. *UPC Volleyball*

Happy Birthday – Warren Nelson & Suz Olson

MONDAY 12/17

5:15 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts 3221 Meeting

6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Parent Meeting

Happy Birthday – Heidi Carswell

TUESDAY 12/18

1:00 p.m. UPBeat Newsletter Deadline

4:30 – 9:00 p.m. *Youth Soccer League*

Happy Birthday – Alice Matthias

WEDNESDAY 12/19

1:00 p.m. *Caregivers Workshop – Senior Connections*

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Party

THURSDAY 12/20

FRIDAY 12/21

SATURDAY 12/22

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We welcome you to our service this morning and hope you enjoy this retelling of the Christmas story by our youth and children under the direction of Christy Willmore. On January 6 we will have Sunday School for children 4K-5th grade beginning each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. If you have children, grandchildren, or neighbor children, we invite them to be with us.

COMMUNITY DINNER

United Presbyterian will be hosting a Community Dinner here at the church today beginning at 4:00 p.m. This dinner is free and open to the public.

CHRISTMAS ITEMS FOR SALE

Isabel, daughter of Dr. Haji Dokhanchi, is here this morning selling Christmas items. All proceeds will go towards Refugee Relief.

EARLY UPBEAT DEADLINE

The January UPBeat Newsletter deadline will be a week earlier this month on **Tuesday, December 18**, due the holiday season. The mailing date will be on **Friday, December 28**.

CAREGIVERS WORKSHOP

Senior Connections of Superior will be holding a Caregivers Workshop here at UPC on Wednesday, December 19th beginning at 1:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The UPC Youth Group will be having their Christmas party on **Wednesday, December 19, 2018 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

UPC will be holding a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on **Monday, December 24th beginning at 9:00 p.m.**

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone that contributed to this year's Family Christmas Baskets. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Mission Committee has again chosen the 'Farm Bundle' as the item for our congregation to purchase with our Christmas Offering. Animals, seeds, tools and training are what we will help to provide. Be sure to write FARM BUNDLE on your Christmas Offering envelope in your box. See the Farm Bundle posters for more information.

WAYS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- ✦ Join us for a cup of coffee in the Fellowship Hall following worship.
- ✦ Pick up a copy of *The UPBeat*, our monthly newsletter, from the table in the narthex.
- ✦ Call the church office at 715-392-4751.
- ✦  Follow us on Facebook.
- ✦

HELPFUL TO KNOW

- ✦ We have large print bulletins.
- ✦ We have hearing assistance devices.
- ✦ There are children's activity sheets available in the narthex.

PRAYER REQUEST

The Pastor is always glad to share prayer requests during the Prayer Time during each worship service. Prayer Request cards are located in the pew slots in each row and on the table by the main entrance. Cards will be asked for and collected during worship service or may be placed in the offering plate.

The Prayer Chain may be activated by calling
Jan Letsos at 715-394-6009

or

Dean Hecht at 715-398-6532.

PASTOR

Reverend Charlotte Frantz

DEACONS OF THE MONTH

Jane Wester &
Sandy LeMieux