



United Presbyterian Church
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www.facebook.com/UnitedPresbyterianChurch

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018 10:00 a.m.

*Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE

Alex Sandor

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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 FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

The Olson Family

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from *Luke 1:47-55*

One: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in
 God my Savior,

**All: The Lord has looked with favor on the lowliness of
 this servant.**

One: Surely, from now on all generations will call me
 blessed;

**All: The Mighty One has done great things for us, and
 holy is God's name.**

One: God's mercy is for those who revere the Lord from
 generation to generation.

**All: God showed strength and might and scattered those
 who are proud.**

One: God brings down the powerful from their thrones and
 lifts up the lowly;

**All: God fills the hungry with good things and sends the
 rich away empty.**

One: The Lord has helped Israel and is full of mercy.

**All: The Lord God promised mercy to our ancestor
 Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever.**

***HYMN**

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

#99

***AN ADVENT PRAYER**

One: In peace let us pray.

**All: O Lord God, we live in a world where evil often
 seems to have the upper hand. Yet, each year, we
 tell this wonderous story of your great love. For the
 sake of love, you came into this world. For the sake
 of love, you gave up your own glory in order to live
 among us. You bring salvation in myriad ways:
 when the hungry are fed, prisoners set free,
 strangers welcomed, sins forgiven and peace
 embraced. Bless our worship this morning, that
 we might know once again your enduring presence
 and everlasting blessing. 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 hope;
He came down that we might have hope;
He came down that we might have hope;
Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we might have peace; etc.

He came down that we might have joy; etc;

He came down that we might have love; etc. (#137)

Prayer cards may be given to an usher to be brought forward.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Reading
Gospel Reading

Jane Wester
Isaiah 61:1-3a
Luke 1: 26-45

SOLO *Mary, Did You Know*
Mark Lowry

Sandy LeMieux

SERMON *Mary Knew*

Rev. Charlotte Frantz

ANTHEM *A Cradle Waits*
Jean Anne Shafferman

Chancel Choir
Jane Wester, Directing

OFFERING

MOMENT FOR MISSION

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 to you, O God, for your blessing, that they might be used to transform some small corner of the world. Let our gifts be warmth in the cold, light to the darkness, hope in the midst of grief, strength for the weak and friendship for the lonely. Bless us in both giving and receiving. *Amen.*

TIME FOR PRAYER

PRAYERS TO BE SHARED

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, 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** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*
#100

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Alex Sandor

On January 6 we will have Sunday School 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING*Isaiah 61:1-3a*

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

GOSPEL READING*Luke 1: 26-45*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'

The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

United Presbyterian Church Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY 12/23

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal Happy Birthday – Tim Bergstrom

10:00 a.m. Worship

6:00 p.m. UPC Volleyball

MONDAY 12/24 **Christmas Eve**

9:00 p.m. *Candlelight Christmas Service*

TUESDAY 12/25 **Christmas Day**

OFFICE CLOSED

WEDNESDAY 12/26

OFFICE CLOSED

THURSDAY 12/27

FRIDAY 12/28

UPBeat Mailing

Happy Birthday – Tom Lisak

SATURDAY 12/29

Happy Birthday – Christy Willmore & Crædz McClellan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

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

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.

REMINDER

Please remember to pick up you 2019 Offering Envelopes. The boxes are located on a table at the back of the narthex.

PLEDGE CONTRIBUTIONS

No more pledge contributions for 2018 will be taken after Monday, December 31, 2018. If you have not handed in your pledge contribution card yet and still plan on doing so, please speak with Jan Letsos so that arrangements can be made to have it in before the year-end deadline.

NEWSLETTER

The mailing day for the January 2019 UPBeat Newsletter will be on Friday, December 28, 2018.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN JANUARY

Beginning on Sunday, January 6, 2019, Sunday School will be held each week at 9:00 a.m. for children grades 4K - 5th grade. We will dismiss at 9:50 in time for worship.

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