

WAYS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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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) or by contacting the church by email or phone with your request.

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—Jane Wester

Church Secretary—Tiffany Willie

Custodian—Beth Lisak

Director of Spiritual Formation—Laura Foote

Financial Secretary—Jan Letsos

Nursery Coordinators—Annika Nikoi & Danielle Brady-Anderson

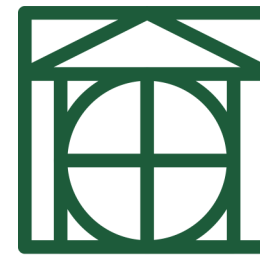
Organist & Pianist—Alexander Sandor

Pastor—Rev. Brett M. Foote

Treasurer—Christy Willmore

Cover Art: "Icon of St. Simeon the God Receiver"

A CONGREGATION OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)



UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF SUPERIOR, WI



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Superior, WI 54880

Office: 715-392-4751

Pastor: 717-247-4433

unitedpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/UnitedPresbyterianChurch

Online Worship

First Sunday in Christmastide

December 31st, 2023

10:00 AM

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP & INTROIT**
What Star is This, With Beams so Bright #152

***PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION**

One: Let us pray.

All: God of newness, thank you for prompting change in our lives. We praise you for the ways in which you call young and old alike. We praise you for calling us each uniquely. We confess that we sometimes disregard your call in our lives. Forgive us gentle God, for when we sometimes fill our lives with frivolity over calling. Forgive us for those moments when we miss the mark. Forgive us for the times we don't ask ourselves holy questions. Mold us to be your son Jesus' hands and feet to a hurting world. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

***HYMN** 'Twas in The Moon of Wintertime #142

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Christmas is such a short time of the year, but the effect it can have on our lives is tremendous. The grace and provision from God in the Christmas story are reminders that no matter how bad it gets or what's before you, God is with you. God forgives you. God loves you. Know that because of Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection...

All: We are forgiven. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

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

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

***RESPONSE** Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child (1x) #126

SCRIPTURE READINGS Jackie Pananen
Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61:10-62:3

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM Let There Be Peace On Earth

SERMON "Instead of Resolutions: Holy Questions?"
Rev. Brett M Foote
New Testament Reading Luke 2:25-32, 34-38

***HYMN** What Child is This #145

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP & MISSION

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Alex Sandor

***RESPONSE**

He Came Down

#137

1 He came down that we may have love; x3
2 He came down that we may have light; x3
3 He came down that we may have peace; x3
4 He came down that we may have joy; x3
Hallelujah forevermore.

***PRAYER OVER OFFERING**

One: Let us bless these gifts.

All: Infant Christ, thank you for your birth that blesses us. May we be a blessing to our neighbors and our community. May we always reach out our hands to you and our neighbor when we're in need. May we also always reach out to bless others when they are in need. Help us to elevate the voices of those who have been marginalized or hurt by society. Help us to give of our time, talents, or treasures. May we represent your expansive justice and love. Send your powerful Spirit so we can connect with, serve, and care for each of our communities: Superior, Duluth, and Eau Claire. We want others to know your "love that goes into the far country." 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; 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.

***CLOSING HYMN** Lord of The Dance #157

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Alex Sandor

Simeon's questions: What is God, the Holy Spirit revealing to you? What is the work of your heart, led by God that you must do before you pass away?

Prophetess Anna's question: What is it that you can praise God for doing in your life and tell others about?

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;
 my whole being shall exult in my God,
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
 For as the earth brings forth its shoots
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
 so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
 to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
 until her vindication shines out like the dawn
 and her salvation like a burning torch.
 The nations shall see your vindication
 and all the kings your glory,
 and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the Lord will give.
 You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the Lord
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 2:25-32, 34-38

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."
 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

United Presbyterian Church Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY 12/31

8:45 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 10:00 AM Morning Worship
 10:15 AM Children's Church
 6 PM Volleyball

MONDAY 1/1

Office Closed - Happy New Year!

TUESDAY 1/2

UPBeat Mailing
 10 AM Pickleball
 4:30 PM Worship Committee
 6 PM Bell Choir

WEDNESDAY 1/3

10 AM Glen Carlson Visitation
 11 AM Glen Carlson Funeral
 2-6 PM CSA Pickup
 4 PM Deacon Meeting
 6 PM Book Club

THURSDAY 1/4

Fellowship Hall in Use
 10 AM Pickleball
 7 PM AA Meeting

FRIDAY 1/5

Fellowship Hall in Use

SATURDAY 1/6

Fellowship Hall in Use

Birthdays This Week

1/1 Sara Miles
 1/1 Elizabeth Schlacks
 lafrate
 1/3 Emily Lanigan
 1/3 Dominic Okash

LOOKING AHEAD

January 15-22	Pastor Out –Vacation
January 15	Office Closed

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

GET INVOLVED

There are plenty of ways to get involved here at United! Two great ways that are available year-round are to sign up to be a liturgist during our Sunday worship, or to host a coffee hour following the service. There are sign up sheets available at the back of the Narthex under the calendar!

NURSERY AVAILABILITY

Our nursery is open 15 minutes before the service begins for children who are newborn through 4 years old. Once checked in, your young ones can play in a safe environment during worship.

SECOND SUNDAY STUDENT DINNER

On Sunday, January 14th middle and high school students are invited to our Second Sunday Student Dinner! The dinner will take place at Laura and Brett's home at 6:30p. It will be a time to connect with one another, grow in our faith, and of course...fill our bellies! If you have any questions, reach out to Laura after the service or by emailing: lmfoote.upc@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER AT GREAT LAKES ELEMENTARY

United, we have an amazing opportunity to support our neighbor—Great Lakes Elementary! They are in need of adult volunteers to listen to children read. Support is needed for all grade levels at various times of the day, and will continue through the end of the school year. You can commit to visiting weekly or every other week. There will be a sign-up sheet in the bulletin on December 31st and on January 7th. Martine and Michele, from Great Lakes, will be visiting during the service on January 7th to share more. A passed background check is required to participate. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please reach out to Laura after the service or send an email to lmfoote.upc@gmail.com.

LET'S FILL THE PRIZE DRAWER!

A reward students receive for practicing their reading is a prize from the Prize Drawer. Let's show our care for our neighboring students and educators by filling the Prize Drawer! Please bring an item from the list to the church by January 7th. You can give your item to Laura or place it in the labeled box by the calendar in the narthex. We will give these prizes to Martine, who is an educator at Great Lakes, on January 7th when she visits! Here is a list of prize items to bring: stickers, suckers, squishies, trinkets, anything little, party favors, Jolly Ranchers, juice boxes, and Starbursts. Thank you everyone! It's the little things that often make a big difference.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The envelopes are on the table in the back of the church. If you want envelopes and you were omitted, please contact Jan Letsos.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPC COMMUNITY GARDEN THANKS

As of Wednesday, December 13, the UPC Community Garden's Seed-Money fundraising campaign had raised \$1355 (well over our \$1000 goal)! On top of the \$1355 we raised, we also received a \$200 grant for having reached and surpassed our goal! Many thanks to all those who donated to the campaign.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on January 28th following the service.

FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH NEWS

You can join us for pickleball **Tuesdays or Thursdays from 10 AM-12 PM**. We hope to see you there!
Volleyball will be playing **every Sunday at 6 PM** unless there is an announcement stating otherwise!

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

This year, we as a church will be putting together our own devotional for the 40 days of Lent. We are asking for submissions from anyone interested in sharing something in this devotional. There is a sign up sheet at the back of the narthex where folks can sign up for one of the 40 days. Please keep submissions short (1-2 paragraphs), as there will be limited space. They must also be submitted digitally to the office via email. Examples of submissions include: Stories, poems, artwork, pictures, or anything else special to you! The deadline for submissions to be sent to the office is January 18th at noon.

NEW YEARS PARTY

At Amnicon Lake, 4519 E Pleasant View Rd, Superior, WI 54880

New Years Eve – 7 PM - Midnight

If you are looking for friends and fun, come on over for sliding, ice fishing, skating, games, puzzles, and food!

New Years Day – Noon - ?

Fun, fun, and more fun! Games, outside ice time with boot hockey, bonfire, and food!

Contact Beth Lisak at 715-817-4861 if you have any questions or if you need a ride!

CURRENT COVID PROCEDURES

As of Friday, December 29th, Douglas County is at a **Medium COVID-19 Community Level**. At this level, the Session-approved guidelines recommend that our community members wear high-quality masks or respirators indoors, host gatherings outside (when possible), stay home when sick, and stay up to date on vaccinations.

VOLUNTEER AT

Great Lakes Elementary

Listen to kids read and build relationships with the students and educators right next door.
**There may also be opportunity to support in other subjects.*

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE(S):

	All Grades	3rd Grade	Frequency:
	Read Live 8-9a	8:45-9:45a or 12:15-12:40p	1x a week
Kindergarten			
	9:15-10:15a or 2:30-3p	4th Grade TBD	2x a week
1st Grade			3x a week
	8:45-9:15a or 12:35-1:05p	5th Grade 1:45-2:30p	Every other week
2nd Grade			
	12:30-1p		

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

A passed background check is required to participate.

Please give your completed form to Laura by January 8th.

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright 152

Capo 2: (C) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G) (C) (F)
 D Bm A D G D A D G



1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more
 2 'Tis now ful-filled what God de-creed, "From
 3 While out-ward signs the star dis-plays, an
 4 O Je-sus, while the star of grace im-

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G)
 D A D G D A



love-ly than the noon-day light? 'Tis
 Ja-cob shall a star pro-ceed"; and
 in-ward light the Lord con-veys and
 pels us on to seek your face, let

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C) (Dm)
 Bm E7 A D G D Em



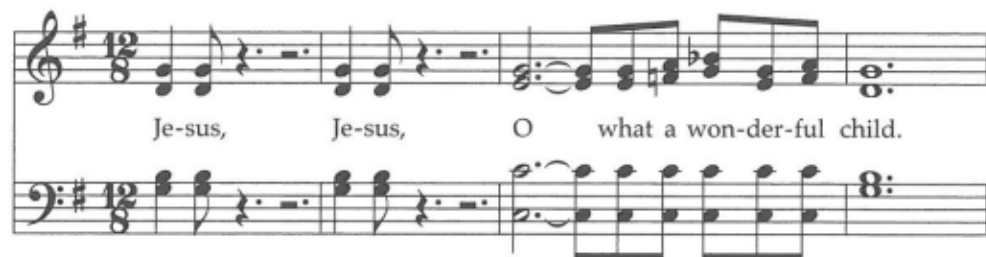
sent to an-nounce a new-born king, glad
 lo! the east-ern sa-ges stand to
 urg-es them, with ten-der might, to
 not our sloth-ful hearts re-fuse the

(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)
 A D A D G A D

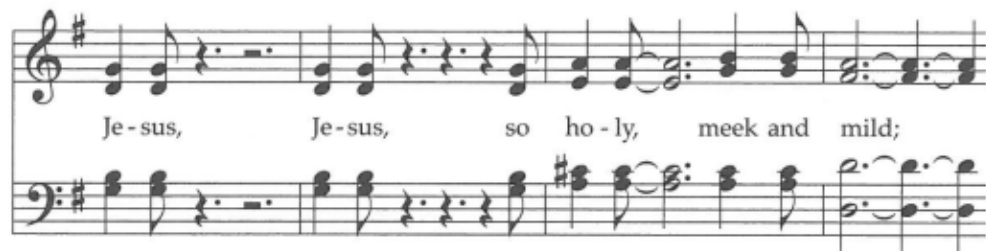


ti-dings of our God to bring.
 read in heaven the Lord's com-mand.
 seek the giv-er of light.
 guid-ance of your light to use.

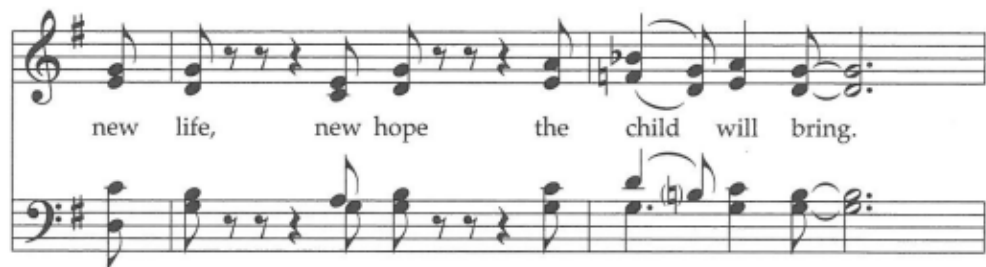
Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child 126



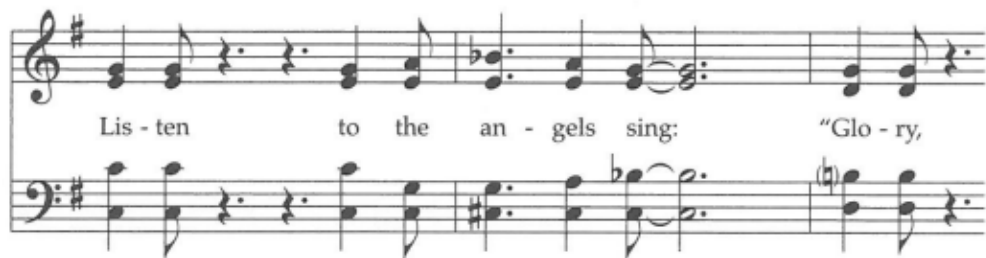
Je-sus, Je-sus, O what a won-der-ful child.



Je-sus, Je-sus, so ho-ly, meek and mild;



new life, new hope the child will bring.



Lis-ten to the an-gels sing: "Glo-ry,



glo-ry, glo-ry!" Let the heav-ens ring.

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime 142

Capo 3: (Em) (Am) (Bm7) (Em)
Gm Cm Dm7 Gm



1 'Twas in the moon of win-ter-time, when all the birds had fled,
2 With-in a lodge of bro-ken bark the ten-der babe was found.
3 The ear-liest moon of win-ter-time is not so round and fair
4 O chil-dren of the for-est free, the an-gel song is true:

(Em) (Am) (Bm7) (Em)
Gm Cm Dm7 Gm



Great Spir-it, Lord of all the earth sent an-gel choirs in-stead.
A rag-ged robe of rab-bit skin en-wrapped his beau-ty round.
as was the ring of glo-ry on the help-less in-fant there.
the ho-ly child of earth and heaven is born to-day for you.

(Bm) (Am) (G)
Dm Cm B^b



Be-fore their light the stars grew dim and wan-dering
But as the hunt-ers brave drew nigh the an-gel
The chiefs from far be-fore him knelt with gifts of
Come kneel be-fore the ra-diant boy who brings you

Refrain

(C) (Am) (Bm7) (Em) (Bm)
E^b Cm Dm7 Gm Dm



hunt-ers heard the hymn:
song rang loud and high: Je-sus, your king, is born;
fox and bea-ver pelt.
beau-ty, peace, and joy.

(C) (Bm) (Em) (Am) (Bm7) (Em)
E^b Dm Gm Cm Dm7 Gm



Je-sus is born. In ex-cel-sis glo-ri-a.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

145 What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.
The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Raise, raise the song on high. The vir-gin sings her lul-la-by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y!



157 I Danced in the Morning

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (F#m) Am (Bm) Dm

1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
 2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but
 3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The
 4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's
 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. †

(Em) Gm (A) C

danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
 they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. I
 hard - to dance with the dev - il on your back. They
 I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll

(D) F (Bm) Dm (F#m) Am (Bm) Dm

came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but
 live in you if you'll live in me, †

(Em) Gm (A7) C7 (G) Bb (D) F

Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
 came with me and the dance went on.
 left me there on a cross to die.
 I am the dance and I still go on.
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Refrain (F#m) Am (Bm) Dm (F#m) Am (Bm) Dm (D) F (Bm) Dm

Dance, then, wher - ev - er you may be; I am the Lord of the

(Em) Gm (A) C (D) F (Bm) Dm (D) F (A7) C7 (D) F

Dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wher - ev - er you may be,

(Em) Gm (A7) C7 (D) F (G) Bb (D) F

and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.