

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: "Blurry But Joyful"

Photograph provided by Laura & Mike Petite

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



UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF SUPERIOR, WI



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Superior, WI 54880

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Pastor: 717-247-4433

unitedpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/UnitedPresbyterianChurch

Online Worship

Third Sunday in Advent

December 17th, 2023 10:00 AM

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

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

PRELUDE Alex Sandor

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Yingling Family

***RESPONSE** Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (vs. 3) #85

***PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION**

One: God of stories...

All: We praise you for how you've weaved yourself in to the very fabric of this world and our lives. Every thought is a thought of you in some way shape or form. We give thanks for the kids in our lives... in our families, our friends, and in this life of this church. We know that as we witness their parents in them, we can witness you in each and every one of us. Forgive us God for those times where we don't recognize you in others. Help us to witness you in every person we meet! Help us to see your story from creation to redemption, in others' lives. In Christ's name we pray.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God loves and forgives you.

All: A whole lot! 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!"** (Say hello to others and connect.)

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

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM Christmas Rejoicing

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Isaiah 7:10-17

New Testament Luke 1:39-45, 56-58

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Hymn To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary #98

Hymn Away in a Manger #115

Hymn While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks #118

Hymn The First Nowell (vs. 3 & 4) #147

***HYMN** Angels From the Realms of Glory #143

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP & MISSION

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Alex Sandor

***RESPONSE** O Come, Let Us Adore Him (vs.1) #133

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!

***PRAYER OVER OFFERING**

One: Let us bless these gifts.

All: God of laughter, rambunctious animals, wise people bringing gifts and a modern day Superior Mary & Joseph, thank you for blessing us with your story! Thank you for blessing us so that we may 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. 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 Summit. 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** Joy to the World #134

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** Alex Sandor

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10-17

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.'

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1:39-45, 56-58

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.'

And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

United Presbyterian Church Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY 12/17

8:30 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal

Breakfast followed by Christmas Program Practice

10:00 AM Morning Worship: Children's Christmas Program

4 PM Community Dinner

6 PM Scouts

6 PM Volleyball

MONDAY 12/18

6:15-8 PM Piano Lessons

TUESDAY 12/19

10 AM Pickleball

1 PM Boost Your Brain & Memory

6 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY 12/20

1 PM Caregivers Conservations

1 PM UPBeat Deadline

2-6 PM CSA Pickup

THURSDAY 12/21

10 AM Pickleball

6:15 PM Session Meeting

7 PM AA Meeting

FRIDAY 12/22

SATURDAY 12/23

Birthdays This Week

12/17 Heidi Carswell

12/18 Alice Matthias

12/20 Cheri Danielson

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>

LOOKING AHEAD

December 20 UPBeat Deadline

December 24 10:00 am Lessons and Carols for Christmas
7:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 25 Office Closed

December 26 Office Closed

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.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

After the Passing the Peace portion of our service, children ages 5 through 5th grade are invited to meet by the round table in the narthex, from there they will go together to the Youth room for Children's Church! This is a time designed specifically for our young ones to learn and grow in their faith.

HAT AND MITTEN TREE

The mission committee is now collecting hats and mittens for the mitten tree. Donations will be divided between the Headstart centers. Donations that are too big for pre-schoolers will be given to others who are in need.

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

8:30 a.m. Breakfast and Christmas program practice

10:00 a.m. Morning Worship: Lessons and Carols

The Christmas story in song and scripture

7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Childcare will be provided at both services!

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)! Many thanks to all those who donated to the campaign.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

December 19—Chelsea Thompson will be leading a “Boost Your Brain and Memory Program” from 1-2:30 PM.

BUMP SET SPIKE BY JAY

We had 4 vs 4 for UPC volleyball last Sunday! We had some good games. If you are interested in joining us, please do! Ideally, we would like to play 6 vs 6!

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

During the Advent season, there will be an opportunity for the congregation to request their favorite Christmas carols to be sung in the 10 minutes prior to the service starting.

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.

CURRENT COVID PROCEDURES

As of Friday, December 15th, 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.

Light One Candle to Watch 85

for Messiah



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
 2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
 3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
 4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the

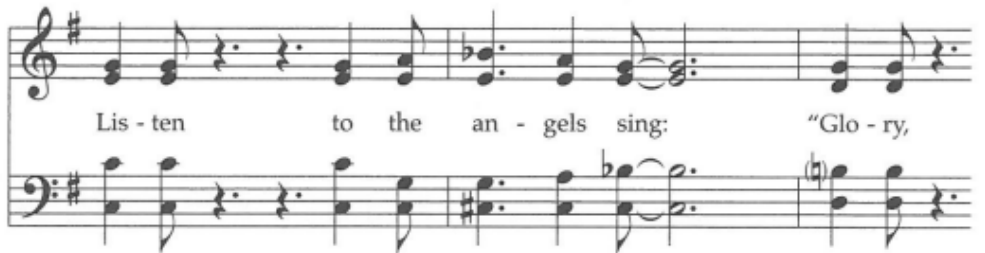
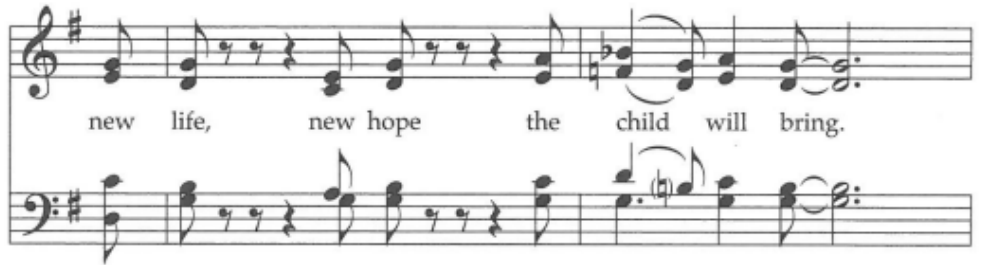
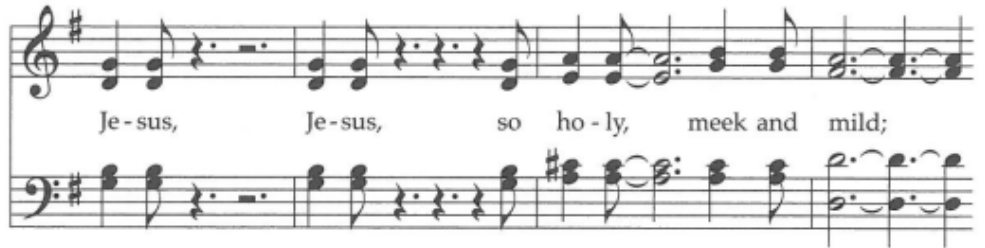


light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -
 light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall feed the
 light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and
 light ban - ish dark - ness. He is com - ing;



va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
 lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
 tell the glad ti - dings. Let your lights be shin - ing.

Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child 126



98 To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

Capo 3: (Em) (B7) (Em) (Am) (B) (Em)
 Gm D7 Gm Cm D Gm

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.

(Em) (B7) (Em) (G) (D) (G)
 Gm D7 Gm B^b F B^b

"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.

(Em) (Am) (B) (Em) (Am) (B) (Em)
 Gm Cm D Gm Cm D Gm

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."

115 Away in a Manger

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D)
 F B^b F

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(A7) (D)
 C7 F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(G) (D)
 B^b F

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

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

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks 118

1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat-ed
 2 "Fear not," said he, for might-y dread had seized their
 3 "To you, in Da-vid's town this day, is born of
 4 "The heaven-ly babe you there shall find to hu-man

on the ground, the an-gel of the Lord came down, and
 trou-bled mind: "Glad ti-dings of great joy I bring to
 Da-vid's line the Sav-ior, who is Christ the Lord, and
 view dis-played, all hum-bly wrapped in swath-ing bands, and

glo-ry shone a-round, and glo-ry shone a-round.
 you and hu-man-kind, to you and hu-man-kind.
 this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:
 in a man-ger laid, and in a man-ger laid."

5 Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith
 appeared a shining throng
 of angels praising God, who thus
 addressed their joyful song,
 addressed their joyful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high,
 and to the earth be peace;
 good will to all from highest heaven
 begin and never cease,
 begin and never cease!"

147 The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor
 2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth-le-

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave
 came from coun-try far; to seek for a king was their
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 great light, and so it con-tin-ued both day and night.
 in-tent, and to fol-low the star wher-ev-er it went.
 and stay, right o-ver the place where Je-sus lay.

Refrain

Now-ell, Now-ell, Now-ell, Now-ell,

born is the King of Is-ra-el.

143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,
 you have seen his na - tal star:
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing,
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,