



United Methodist Church of Antioch

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

PRELUDE The Wexford Carol

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Today	Worship 8am & 10:30am Choir/Sunday School, 9:15am Handbell Choir Debut/Both services AA 8-9pm/White Rm
Mon, Dec 18	UMCAP 9am-2pm AA 10-11am; 8-9pm/White Rm
Tues, Dec 19	UMCAP 9am-2pm; Board Mtg 2:15 W. Hall Advent Book Study 6:30pm/All Saints Rm Ruth Bemis Funeral, 6:30pm/Strang's AA 6-7pm/White Rm
Wed, Dec 20	UMCAP 9am-2pm AA 10-11am; 8-9pm/White Rm
Thurs, Dec 21	UMCAP 9am-2pm Private Event, 12:30pm-1:30pm/Sanctuary & Wesley Hall AA 6-7pm/White Rm
Fri, Dec 22	AA 10-11am AA 6:30-7:30pm; 8:30-9:30pm
Sat, Dec 23	AA 6-7pm/White Rm
Sun, Dec 24	Worship One service only, 9:15am Family Friendly Worship Service, 5pm Traditional Communion Service, 7pm AA 8-9pm/White Rm

~Please note, the worship service is recorded and streamed to the internet, and there are large print bulletins and Bibles available. See an usher if you would like one. Additionally, there are handicap accessible restrooms located in Wesley Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-Thank you to all who donated and bought items from the Resale tables. We had a very successful year thanks to you! The tables are now 1/2 off. Happy Holidays, The Missions Committee

-Christmas Eve worship will be at 5pm and 7pm. The 5pm service will be family-friendly and the 7pm service will be more traditional with Communion.

-A heartfelt thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the cookie walk and Christmas Resale Shoppe successful again this year. To the bakers, people who helped set up/tear down, and everyone who donated/came out to shop- the sale would not have been possible without your coming together and helping. Sincerely, Lou Ann Holmes & the Missions Committee.

- Today is the last day to turn in your Christmas Eve poinsettia donations in honor/memory of loved ones. The names of those honored will be in our bulletin on Christmas Eve. Plants will be available to take home following the 7pm Christmas Eve service.

The Church Nursery is available for children 4 years and under. Please speak to an usher if you need nursery care. We follow our Safe Sanctuary policy, a copy of which is available in the nursery room. Also, children's activity folders are available by the Usher's stand.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

8:00am service Judy Degand & Dawn Vogel

10:30am service Tom & Robin Kessell

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Unison)

Spoken after Reader 2 “...igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.”

We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God’s people.

MISSION STATEMENT (Unison)

The mission of the United Methodist Church of Antioch is to grow in faith, to worship God following the teachings of Jesus Christ, and to be instruments of God’s love through the Holy Spirit as we reach out to our community and the world.

** Invites you to stand as you are able or to sit with gusto!*

***WE ARE WELCOMED TO WORSHIP (Responsively)**

L: Telling the stories of Jesus can make us nervous and uncomfortable.

P: We’re never sure how people will respond in our world today.

L: If we don’t testify to the Light of God, who will? Will those who claim to do so tell the full story of God’s love?

P: We can’t leave talking about Jesus to someone else. We will do what we can to testify to the Light.

***HYMN Red Hymnal #202**

People, Look East

***OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

Holy God, when we are frightened of doing what you ask of us, help us to feel your encouraging presence with us. As we gather for worship today, show us how to prepare our world for your return. May we be people whose love for you emanates out into the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN Green Hymnal #3045

Down by the Jordan

Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:
“God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live!
Surely God's new day is rising!”

There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:
“Are you God's Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?”
“No!” John replied. “He who is mightier than I judges and
offers salvation.”

Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,
Taking your place among sinners, God's lost sons and
daughters. Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove!
Your work began in those waters.

Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's
Spirit. Freed and forgiven, we're welcomed with joy! Can you
hear it? This is God's sign! This is how God says, “You're
mine!” Let's take the good news and share it!

WE ASK FOR UNDERSTANDING (Unison)

Holy Child, the One for whom we are preparing, we ask you to guide our thinking, our praying, and our hoping. Focus our eyes and ears in these moments as we hear your Scriptures read and interpreted so that we might have a greater understanding. May our time together with you help us all to be more prepared for your coming. Amen.

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS -John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

L: The word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Rev. Katie Voigt

Testify to the Light

CHOIR ANTHEM 10:30am Service

UMCA Choir

Carol for Advent

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys/Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Celebration Fanfare*

Handbell Choir

***DOXOLOGY #95**

Handbell Choir

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***WE DEDICATE OUR GIFTS TO GOD (Unison)**

God of hope and compassion: Just as John the Baptist came long ago in Judea to witness to your light, we remember the light he heralds is the savior of hope. Sometimes it seems our world is determined to extinguish hope and light. We admit that there are times when we feel the darkness is just too prevalent, too strong, and hope is

just wishful thinking. May we witness through our giving not scarcity and despair but fierce joy, hope, and compassion. May we also witness through what we say and what we do. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN Red Hymnal #196**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

***WE GO FORTH WITH BLESSING (Responsively)**

L: Who are you? Are you a prophet?

P: No, we are the voices of people crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’ The One who is coming after us is the Messiah.

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

P: And also, with you. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

The Advent Chorale

Red indicates “The United Methodist Hymnal”

Black indicates “The Faith We Sing”

One License # A-739071

Worship Attendance/Giving for Sunday Dec 10, 2023

8:00am -33

10:30am -50

General Fund: \$8,289

Missions: \$3,129

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

	Today	Dec 24
Greeters		9:15am only
8:00am	Vicki Walker	<i>HELP NEEDED</i>
10:30am	Pat Calkins	
Ushers		
8:00am	Dawn Vogel	Jerry Topcik
10:30am	Dan Fluck	
Soundboard		
8:00am	Denny Sathoff	Mike Lapke
10:30am	Isaac Platzbecker	
Liturgists		
8:00am	Wayne Buck	Leta Sathoff
10:30am	Judy Tetour	
Coffee Servers		
8:00am	Denny & Leta S	Nancy Rae
10:30am	Carol Frazier Rae Family	Joanne Rae
Church Openers		
	Cichonskis	Sathoffs
Advent Readers		
8:00am	Judy Degand Dawn Vogel	Mike Lapke Valerie Lapke
10:30am	Tom & Robin Kessell	

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ANTIOCH

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See us on Facebook!

Pastor- Rev. Katie Voigt

Music Director/Organist-Debbie Gillette

Choir Director-Nicole Heyl

Custodians- Michelle Mennes & Kelly Kiple

Office Administrator-TeKeesha Fisher

UMCA Christian Preschool Director- Kim Dodd

(847) 395-1362

Scan below for December's Newsletter



Please Note:

Deadline for the Newsletter is the 15th of each month-for the FOLLOWING month Send info in Word doc or body of email to editorumca@gmail.com

Next deadline is January 15th for the February newsletter.

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.