

United Methodist Church of Antioch

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

7:00pm



PRELUDE *Organ Medley* Debbie Gillette
I'll Be Home for Christmas
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
Grace Nance, piano
Charles Jenkins, cello

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tues, Dec. 24 Family Friendly Worship Service, 5pm
Traditional Communion Service, 7pm
AA 6-7pm/White Rm 102

Wed, Dec. 25 Christmas Day- **Office Closed 12/25-1/1**
AA 8-9pm/White Rm 102

Thurs, Dec. 26 Office Closed
AA 6-7pm/White Rm 102

Fri, Dec. 27 AA 6:30-7:30pm/White Rm 102

Sat, Dec. 28 Feed My Starving Children 9-10:45am/
Libertyville Location
AA 6-7pm/White Rm 102

Sun, Dec. 29 Worship 9:15am- UVC Sunday
AA 8-9pm/White Rm 102

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

CHRISTMAS WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

-Please note: Pastor Katie will be on vacation from December 25 through January 1. The office will be closed during this time. If you need pastoral assistance while Pastor Katie is away, please contact Beth Stahl, Jim Menzer or Cheryl Collins. Also, please know Pastor Katie turns her cell phone off while on vacation, so she will not receive your calls, voicemail, texts, or email until she returns. Merry Christmas to all, and let us rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior!

-Please note: Sunday December 29th, there will only be **one** worship service at **9:15am**.

-Planning to make an end-of-the-year gift? Please have it turned in by December 31st to ensure it is counted in the correct year.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

L: Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

P: **Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. “His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this” (Isaiah 9:7).**

L: We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God’s salvation wherever we go.

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

L: For you who are filled to the brim with happiness,

P: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

L: For you who are mourning the loss of family and friends,

P: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

L: For you who feel like you are tripping about in darkness,

P: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

L: For you who rest in gratitude and contentment,

P: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

L: For you who feel the ache of loneliness,

P: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

L: For you who are surrounded by unlikely yet beautiful companionship,

P: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

L: Come, let us worship the birth of our Savior!

P: Come, let us worship God who came to dwell among us!

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2024.)

HYMN Red Hymnal #234

O Come, All Ye Faithful Vs. 1, 2, 3, 6

Handbell Choir

OPENING PRAYER

On this night of all nights, we give you thanks for all that you have done for us, O God. For this Son of God and Son of Humanity who shared our earth, for this One who walked in our dirt and felt our emotions, for this One who changed the world forever, we simply say thank you. And now, O God, hear us as we pray as Jesus taught us ...

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.

HYMN Red Hymnal #220

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Isaac Platzbecker, trumpet

Owen Richards, trombone

WE ASK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Holy Child, the One for whom we have been preparing, we celebrate your arrival this night. 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 – Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

HYMN Red Hymnal #246 *Joy to the World*

Isaac Platzbecker, trumpet

Owen Richards, trombone

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS – 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.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Joy

Rev. Katie Voigt

SPECIAL MUSIC *Hosianna, Son of David* by Vogler

Ardy Lange, vocalist

Nathan Fey, guitar

Barry Fey, double bass

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Unison): Most merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Pastor): Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

(Unison): In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION *See Booklet*

Hymns Sung During Receiving

#217 *Away in a Manger*

#230 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Valerie Lapke, cello

Mike Lapke, harmonica

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING *See Booklet*

OFFERTORY *White Christmas*

Grace Nance, piano

Charles Jenkins, cello

***DOXOLOGY #95**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***WE DEDICATE OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

Glorious God, as the shepherds rejoiced at the angel's news, we too bring our offerings with joy. Bless these gifts, that they may spread your good news of great joy to all people. Use them to bring peace, justice, and hope to our community and beyond. In this season of Advent, may our giving reflect the light of Christ, and may we be your instruments of love and generosity. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***THE CHRISTMAS CREED (Unison)**

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Gospel, which began in Bethlehem.

I believe in the One whose Spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming the prophets foretold, and for whom there was no room in the inn.

I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history; for whom the rulers of the earth had no power and who was not understood by the proud.

I believe in the One who, with love, changed the hearts of the crowds and with His life showed that it is more important to serve than to be served. Through Him we learned that the greatest glory is giving one's life in service to others.

I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of the Gospel.

I believe that Christmas is strength and love, and that this world can change, if with humility and with faith we kneel before the manger.

I believe that I must be the first one to do so. Amen.

*SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

***CLOSING HYMN #239** *Silent Night* (vs. 1,2,3)
Hannah Richards, flute

*CHRISTMAS BLESSING

***CLOSING HYMN #239** *Silent Night* (vs. 4)
Hannah Richards, flute

***POSTLUDE** Debbie Gillette
Sing We Now of Christmas

Red indicates “The United Methodist Hymnal”
Black indicates “The Faith We Sing” -OneLicense # A-739071

Thank you to tonight’s musical accompanists:

Grace Nance, piano
Charles Jenkins, cello
UMCA Handbell Choir
Isaac Platzbecker, trumpet
Owen Richards, trombone
Ardy Lange, vocalist
Nathan Fey, guitar
Barry Fey, double bass
Valerie Lapke, cello
Mike Lapke, harmonica
Hannah Richards, flute

2024



Poinsettias for our sanctuary have been given by:

E. Russel Brearley in memory of Dolores & Andrew

Meghan Burks in memory of Emily & John Yohman

Walter & Carol Cichonski in memory of Chester, Anna, Stan, &
Hank Cichonski; Dorothy Slichenmyer, and Jason Shymanik

Greg & Cheryl Collins and Bev Reckers in memory of Preston
Reckers, Ila Lasco, and loved ones

Howard & Mary Geier in memory of their parents

Ron & Mary Kay Giebelhaus in memory of our parents Hank & Rose
Jarvis and Irenne & Don Gable

Linda Hensgen & Vi Kluth in memory of Ellen Petersen, Judy
Anderle, and Don Kluth

LouAnn Holmes in memory of Louis & Harriett Albano, Charles &
Jule Holmes, Jim Holmes, and Hariet Laws

Janet Lyons in memory of Richard Erickson

Irv & Pat Metz in memory of Jim & Betty Ferrier and Herman &
Doris Metz

Joyce Olsen in memory of Richard Olsen, Dr. & Mrs. Maurice
Olsen, and Edward & Mary Usnik

Joan Padbury in memory of Bruce Padbury

Poinsettias for our sanctuary have been given by:
(continued)

Richard Paddock in memory of Carol A. Paddock

Sally Rodgers in memory of Don Rodgers, David Michael Ruhl,
Tom & Esther Jacobsen, and Sallie Stoner

Leta Sathoff in memory of Gene & Barb Smith

Evie Skidmore in memory of Don Skidmore & Steve Skidmore

Pastor Katie in memory of Willis & Elizabeth Voigt; Ruth, J. Robert,
& Kathryn Curtis; and Heather Voigt

Carleen and Toodles Wurster in memory of Betty & John Sutcliffe,
Carl & Doris Wurster, Richard Mitchell, and Clara Stasior

Margaret Zaller in memory of Earle and Myrtle Palmer

Nancy Zitkus in memory of Lester Zitkus, Mr. & Mrs. Al Swenson

From her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren in memory
of Terry King



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ANTIOCH

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Follow us on Facebook!

Watch us on YouTube!

Pastor- Rev. Katie Voigt

Music Director/Organist-Debbie Gillette

Choir Director-Nicole Heyl

Custodians- Michelle M. & Kelly K.

Office Administrator- Hannah T.

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.