



*He is like a
refiner's fire,
he will*

Purify

his people

He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ~ Malachi 3:3

**10:00 am Worship Service- Sunday, December 8, 2024
2nd Sunday of Advent**



WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

Reader One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God’s coming salvation. “For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness” (Malachi 3:2b-3).

Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God’s peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God’s grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God’s love throughout the earth.

Reader Two: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God’s kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.

HYMN	<i>“O Little Town of Bethlehem”</i>	<i>UMH #230</i>
HYMN	<i>“There’s a Song in the Air”</i>	<i>UMH #249</i>
PRAISE SONG	<i>“One Thing Remains”</i>	



SIGNS OF PEACE

TIME WITH THE YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/OUR LORD'S PRAYER

SONG *"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"*

SCRIPTURE LESSON *Luke 3:1-6* Laurie Barrick

HOMILY Glimpses of the Kingdom: The Refiner's Fire of Passion

A STATEMENT OF FAITH *(Apostle's Creed)* *UMH #881*

MAKING MINISTRY HAPPEN

GIVING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS *"Emmanuel"*

WE OFFER PRAISE *"Come See the Great Light"*

BENEDICTION/RESPONSE *"A closing Prayer"*





Prayer requests cards are now in each pew. Prayer requests can be placed in the offering plate or in the black offering box in the back of the sanctuary.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Betsy Herron (Mary Jo Churlick's sister), Kelly Fine's stepfather, J Glen Vandermark (Pastor Deb's son)

LONG TERM ILLNESS:

Dick & Esther Ocker, Michael Alexander (Bellish's son), Betty Witmer, Liz Lehman, Todd Eckenrode, Teresa Bellish, Harry Schulz, John McAllen (Asonia Wolf's son), Alesha Holsinger (Linda Kimmel's friend), Barb Elting, Gaylea Kelly, Loretta Calaman, John Edwards (Andy & Mary Groshans), Asonia Wolf, Vera Egolf, Jackie Weary, Ed Hair, Stewart Lamma, Anne Stanford, Charles Sherman, Josiah Claire (Becky Smith), The Matrese Family, Steven Hair, Freddy Rodriguez (Deb Kraft).

OUR WORLD MISSIONS:

Mountains of Hope, Furcy, Haiti; Gideons.

THOSE DEPLOYED IN MILITARY SERVICE: Jadyn Barrett (Navy), Alex Myers (Army), Gerad Calaman (Air Force), Dylan Kupp (Navy), Justyn Padua, Brandon Padua, Dustin Jeardoe (Marine), Erin Driver (Army), John Durnin II (Marine).

NURSING HOMES: Thorwald Home: Pauline Hollenbaugh COG: Jane Sunday

**Susquehanna Conference of the UMC
Circle of Prayer Churches December 8-14**

Houserville UMC, State College
St Pauls Lewisburg UMC, Lewisburg
Equinunk UMC, Equinunk
Barts-Centenary UMC, Littlestown
Mt Zion Enola UMC, Enola
Wesley Chapel Huntingdon UMC, Huntingdon
Knoxville Yoked UMC, Knoxville
Witmers UMC, Port Trevorton



December Celebrations

ANNIVERSARIES

20 Mike & Patricia Ohler

26 Fred & Ruth Hair

BIRTHDAYS

2 Tim Walsh

18 Kelly Fine

5 Rick Gines

18 Sue Walsh

6 Carol Lawton

19 Jax Dagen

6 Margaret Scroggin

21 Ava Earhart

13 Ann Carney

25 Richard Smith

13 Richard Ocker

30 Cinda Whistler

16 Debbie Shipley

31 Mona Huston

Bulletin sponsorship

Do you have someone you want to honor/memory of or a special occasion?
We still have a few open spots for the remainder of the year. If you would like to sponsor a bulletin week contact the church office for available weeks.

Alternative Christmas Gifts Have Returned

For those of you already working on Christmas lists, keep in mind that we have **Alternative Christmas Gift** options available again this year!

Alternative Christmas Gifts are perfect for people who you want to give to, but who don't really need or want any more **"stuff"...** let your friends and family know you are thinking of them by donating to causes that give hope and life to people who really need it.

Starting **12/1/2024 and throughout Advent**, you can order ornaments representing donations to organizations including: Gideon's Gift for Jesus, Heifer International, UMCOR, Community CARES, and many more!

This year, ordering will be available in our Gathering Space before and after the 10:00am service.

You may also call the church office Monday-Thursday 9:00am to 3:00pm to order, and pick up can be arranged, if necessary.



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

December

- ◆ Sundays- Choir practice
- ◆ 1st –rm 101 following church service
- ◆ 8th– following church service in rm 101
- ◆ 15th– 9:30 in sanctuary & following church service in the sanctuary
- ◆ 22nd– In Sanctuary following church service
- ◆ Wednesdays – Women’s Bible study “Experiencing Christmas” at 9am– Barb Simpson’s home
- ◆ - Zumba at 6pm in church gym
- ◆ - Praise Band practice 7pm
- ◆ Thursdays– Little Lights 10am to 11am
- ◆ 9th—Leadership Council Meeting at 6:30 in rm 101
- ◆ 16th—Community Engagement Team mtg 4:30pm in rm 101
- ◆ 24th to Jan. 2nd - (Christmas)– Church office closed

	DECEMBER	
ROLE	8	15
Acolyte	Holden Clouse-Beddia	Ella Lawton
organist/pianist	Linda Kimmel	Linda Kimmel
Praise Band:		
	Dave Billman	Dave Billman
	Elizabeth Peters	Elizabeth Peters
	Travis Clouse	Travis Clouse
	Seth Lawton	Seth Lawton
	Jaden Peet	Jaden Peet
Tech Team	Tim Walsh	Joe O'Donnell
Ushers:		
Gathering/Downstairs	Glenn Kimmel	Rick Orner
Pastor/Sanctuary	Jim Stevens	Sue Walsh
Greeters:		
Hospitality Greeter	Linda Kimmel	Carolyn Bloom
Bulletin	Ed & Evie Hair	Becky Smith
Lector	Laurie Barrick	Seth Lawton





Middlesex United Methodist Church

***Our Vision: Alive in Christ in the Community
so that the Community is Alive in Christ.***

Serving Christ for over 150 years!

118 North Middlesex Road, Carlisle, PA 17013

717.249.2449 www.middlesexumc.com

office@middlesexumc.com

www.facebook.com/middlesexumchurch

