



Joy
to
the
World

With **JOY** you will draw water from the wells of
salvation . Isaiah 12:3

10:00 am Worship Service- Sunday, December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

PRAISE SONG *"Come See the Great Light"*

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

Reader One: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kin-dom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

Congregation: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

Reader Two: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

Light the third (pink/rose) candle of the Advent wreath.

PRAISE SONG *"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"*

PRAISE SONG *"How Great Our Joy"*

SIGNS OF PEACE

TIME WITH THE YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/OUR LORD'S PRAYER

SONG *"Lift Up Your Eyes"* MUMC Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON *Luke 3:7-18* Seth Lawton

HOMILY Glimpses of the Kingdom: Surely It Is God Where Joy resides

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

GIVING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS *"Emmanuel"*

WE OFFER PRAISE *"Joy to the World"*

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:

Betty Witmer, Mike Ohler, 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), 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, **Sarah Todd: Betty Witmer**

**Susquehanna Conference of the UMC
Circle of Prayer Churches December 15-21**

West Side Clearfield UMC, Clearfield
Letort UMC, Carlisle
Pine Glen UMC, Karthus Lightstreet UMC, Bloomsburg
Elkland UMC, Elkland
Courtdale UMC, Courtdale
Pleasant Hill Shade Gap UMC, Burnt Cabins
Covenant UMC, Lock Haven
Mt Calvary Bendersville UMC, Biglerville
Wesley Bloomsburg UMC, Bloomsburg



Each Week it takes many hands
to prepare for worship.

Thank you !

to our Worship team who are
serving this Month and to those
scheduled to serve this week!

	DECEMBER		
ROLE	15	22	29
Acolyte	Ella Lawton		Zac Peters
organist/pianist			Linda Kimmel
Praise Band:			
	Dave Billman	Dave Billman	Dave Billman
	Elizabeth Peters	Elizabeth Peters	Elizabeth Peters
	Travis Clouse	Travis Clouse	Travis Clouse
	Seth Lawton	Seth Lawton	Seth Lawton
	Jaden Peet	Jaden Peet	Jaden Peet
Tech Team	Joe O'Donnell	Tim Walsh	Joe O'Donnell
Ushers:			
Gathering/ Downstairs	Rick Orner	Andy Groshans	Glenn Kimmel
Pastor/Sanctuary	Sue Walsh	Jim Cohick	Ed Shipley
Greeters:			
Hospitality Greeter	Carolyn Bloom	Mary Groshans	Linda Kimmel
Bulletin	Becky Smith	Fred & Ruth Hair	Deb Shipley
Lector	Seth Lawton	Jolie Rankin	Linda Eckenrode



Anniversary and Birthday Celebrations

December

- 2 Tim Walsh
- 5 Rick Gines
- 6 Carol Lawton
- 6 Margaret Scroggin
- 12 * Dick & Esther Ocker
- 13 Ann Carney
- 13 Richard Ocker
- 16 Debbie Shipley
- 18 Kelly Fine
- 18 Sue Walsh
- 19 Jax Dagen
- 20 * Mike & Patricia Ohler
- 21 Ava Earhart
- 25 Richard Smith
- 26 * Fred & Ruth Hair
- 30 Cinda Whistler
- 31 Mona Huston

- * Anniversaries

January

- 1 Zachary Peters
- 1 Ed Valentine
- 5 Barb Simpson
- 12 Evie Hair
- 13 Nathaniel Stevens
- 14 Malene Chilson
- 15 John Cable
- 15 Sherry Healey
- 16 Shari Bellish
- 16 Bety McCorkel
- 17 Becky Smith
- 18 Clint Healey
- 18 Pam Lebo
- 19 Todd Eckenrode
- 20 Elijah Jumper
- 23 Donna Wade
- 25 Delilah Matrese
- 26 * Richard & Ruth Smith
- 29 Glenn Kimmel
- 29 Jane Sunday

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.



COMMUNITY CARES BREAKFAST

MUMC serves breakfast monthly to our friends at Community CARES. During our December breakfast, we noticed an increase in the number of people to be served. This is common during the cold months (and also sometimes during the extreme heat of summer). Due to previous commitments and illness of our volunteers, we had less than usual amounts of food to serve. We would love to have others participate in this very worthwhile outreach project. It is not necessary to go inside to serve, although it is a wonderful experience and the people being served always express their appreciation. If you choose to provide a breakfast items, it can be dropped off at 8:00am on the first Saturday of each month. Packaged breakfast items that need no preparation, can be put in the CARES bin at church. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sue Walsh.




My Gift to Jesus



Every good and
perfect gift is
from above...

Christmas Eve Offering



The real gifts
of Christmas
aren't under the

Every year during our Christmas Eve worship services, in addition to our regular offering, we dedicate a special Christmas Eve offering, **My Gift to Jesus,**

that will be used entirely in ministry to our community.

This special offering is an opportunity to make a difference locally in ministries with our neighbors throughout the year. If you would like to give a special gift to Jesus, there will be dedicated red envelopes for you to use along with a designated line on your E-Giving. Please consider giving generously as you are able this Christmas.



Come join the **BREW CREW . . .**

feeling lonely with those long winter days....

want to share a cup of coffee with some friends....

need some cheering up...

want to play games....

reminisce.....

Join us every Tuesday starting January 7th 9am-11am at Middlesex United Methodist Church in our Gathering Area for a time of fellowship. Loneliness is a challenge for many of our seniors especially during the winter months.

Looking forward to sharing some java with you.



CHAIR YOGA FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Will begin again on **January 7th 2025.**

Join us every **Tuesday** right after the "Brew Crew" group at **11:30 am in Room 101.**

If you have wanted to try yoga but had reservations about getting down on the floor to do the movements and motions, you might be excited to learn about chair yoga. Chair Yoga, as it's name implies, involves breathing, stretches, twists and balance exercises done while seated in a chair. It is a gentle activity that allows people with mobility issues or disabilities that make it challenging to take part in traditional yoga. Sign up on your connection card or just come. Suggested donation of \$5

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

December

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

HOLIDAY HOURS



Please Note: The Church Office will be closed December 23rd, 2024 through January 1st, 2025.





Hayride to Bethlehem 2024

A big **THANK YOU** for your time and talents during our annual Hayride to Bethlehem! Many lives were touched in numerous ways as we had 169 riders and 60 volunteers who helped us at this event!

Thank you for praying for this event, baking cookies, decorating, acting or taking down scenes. We needed everyone and you all contributed in your own way. We could not have done this without you! God Bless!

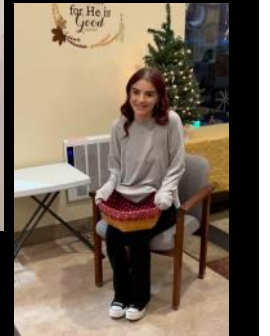
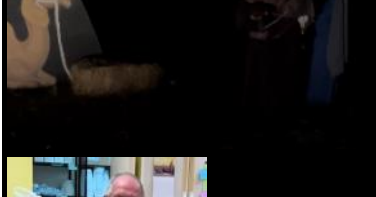
Shari Bellish & Jackie Orner

A special Thank you to **Cor Construction** for once again supplying the much need Porta potties for our volunteers out at the scenes!



Another special Thank you to **Fetrow Electric service Company** for once again supplying a generator for the spotlighting and sound equipment for our nativity scene!





Join us for Christmas Eve Services

5:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service

7:00 pm Musical Drama

featuring MUMC Choir



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!

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