# Almost There...



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ~Luke 1:41

#### 10:00 am Worship Service- Sunday, December 22, 2024 4th Sunday of Advent

#### WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

#### ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

Reader One: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O Middlesex UMC, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

Reader Two: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.

SONGS "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" "Angels We Have Heard on High"
"What Child is This?"

SIGNS OF PEACE

TIME WITH THE YOUNG AT HEART featuring Carol Lawton and the MUMC children

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/OUR LORD'S PRAYER

SONG "The First Noel"

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:39-45 Jolie Rankin

**HOMILY** Glimpses of the Kingdom: The Promise; Almost There

#### A CHRISTMAS STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in One God, Who is Creator, Maker of all we see and all we don't see.

Who is Ruler of the universe: Source of all Creation!

We believe in One God, who is Jesus Christ,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true human.

He is one with the Creator; And the One who was to come, promised Messiah;

Who came, the Word made flesh, and will come again; Our Messiah; Savior of all creation!

We believe in One God, who is Holy Spirit, Breath of God moving among us;

Who is one with the Creator; one with Christ;
Our Comforter and our Guide: Mentor of all Creation!

Adapted from original written by Lisa Frenz

GIVING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS "Emmanuel"

WE OFFER PRAISE "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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:**

Owen Engle (Mary Groshan's nephew), 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:**

Samantha Orner (Air Force), 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**:

<u>Thorwald Home</u>: Pauline Hollenbaugh <u>COG</u>: Jane Sunday, Sarah Todd: Betty Witmer

## Susquehanna Conference of the UMC Circle of Prayer Churches December 22-28

Vira UMC, Lewistown
Trinity Hummelstown UMC, Hummelstown
Stewartstown UMC, Stewartstown
Oakville UMC, Shippensburg
Bethany Milton UMC, Milton
White Mills UMC, White Mills
St Pauls Nordmont UMC, Muncy Valley
Grace Harrisburg UMC, Harrisburg
Shrader UMC, Reedsville
Roaring Creek Valley UMC, Catawissa



	DECEMBER		
ROLE	22	29	
Acolyte		Zac Peters	
organist/pianist		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	Andy Groshans	Glenn Kimmel	
Pastor/Sanctuary	Jim Cohick	Ed Shipley	
Greeters:			
<b>Hospitality Greeter</b>	Mary Groshans	Linda Kimmel	
Bulletin	Fred & Ruth Hair	Deb Shipley	
Lector	Jolie Rankin	Linda Eckenrode	



# Anniversary and Birthday Celebrations

## December

## January

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2	Tim Walsh	1	Zachary Peters
5	Rick Gines	1	Ed Valentine
6	Carol Lawton	5	Barb Simpson
6	Margaret Scroggin	12	Evie Hair
12	* Dick & Esther Ocker	13	<b>Nathaniel Stevens</b>
13	Ann Carney	14	Malene Chilson
13	Richard Ocker	15	John Cable
16	<b>Debbie Shipley</b>	15	Sherry Healey
18	Kelly Fine	16	Shari Bellish
18	Sue Walsh	16	Bety McCorkel
19	Jax Dagen	17	Becky Smith
20	* Mike & Patricia Ohler	18	Clint Healey
21	Ava Earhart	18	Pam Lebo
25	Richard Smith	19	Todd Eckenrode
26	* Fred & Ruth Hair	20	Elijah Jumper
30	Cinda Whistler	23	Donna Wade
31	Mona Huston	25	Delilah Matrese
		26	* Richard & Ruth Smith
*	Anniversaries	29	Glenn Kimmel
		29	Jane Sunday

## 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

# My Gift to Jesus



Christmas Eve Offering



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.







## 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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Bulletins are sponsored this week in Honor of our granddaughter Ava Earhart's 18th birthday by George & Shari Bellish