



GOOD NEWS AMBASSADOR

December 2019

Church of Christ Uniting
United Methodist & Presbyterian (USA)
22 Church Street, PO Box 896
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Reverend Casey Bradley

315 461 6673

Organist/Choir Director: Alice Mahardy

Christmas seems to be one of those holy-days that engages each one of our senses. This entire season becomes an experience that engages us on every level. We see the decorations, we hear the carols, we smell the fresh pine or the cookies baking in the oven, we taste the feasts and the sweets, we feel the warmth surrounding us in the midst of cold December days. I'm sure each of us could point to unique and powerful sense-experiences that are associated with this time of year. I want to invite all of us to long for a different kind of sense this Christmas. I want us to seek after a sense of togetherness.

Over two-thousand years ago in the far reaches of an oppressive empire a young woman received terrifying news, she was carrying an unexpected child. She was told the child was special, the promised one who would reconcile all people to God. Mary was to give birth to a Savior and was to name him 'God with Us.' Mary, and her soon-to-be husband

Joseph, were thrown into a spectacular adventure that changed their lives completely. And while nothing ever seemed certain or easy for this young family, time and time again they discover that the true blessing that they have been given is that they will never be alone.

When Mary learns she is expecting a child, she seeks the counsel and hospitality of her relative Elizabeth who is carrying a special child of her own. When Mary and Joseph enter Bethlehem and find no room for the night, Shepherds come to visit in the night. After Jesus has been born and the young family is visited again by men from the East. Throughout this journey Mary and Joseph continue to encounter the blessings never having to go through this alone.

Even at the end of Jesus' life, as he was dying on the cross, Jesus made a point to ensure that his mother was not left alone. Mary found herself again being invited to experience a sense of togetherness even when it must have seemed like her world was collapsing in on itself.

As the rest of our senses are bombarded by the experiences of Christmastime maybe we can nurture just one more sense. Maybe we can focus on togetherness and make that the sense that reminds us the most of Christmas and the blessings of Christ.

Christ's blessings in these holy-days,

Pastor Casey



CHANCEL CHOIR: Alice Mahardy, Director

Melissa Belcher, Carrie Gardner, Dave Llewellyn, Marion Pitcher, Mark Reardon, Michelle Fritts, Sue Sheldon, Carol Simpson, Gene Simpson, Linda Watkins



SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES

DECEMBER 1 COFFEE: Priscilla Edick.
READER: FaithAnn Young.
USHER: Geri Erwin & Priscilla Edick.
JoAnn Mead & Linda Ehlers.
GREETER: Maxine Armstrong.

DECEMBER 8 COFFEE: Rowena Robertson.
READER: Brian Howser.
USHER: Fred & Carla.
GREETER: Priscilla Edick.

DECEMBER 15 COFFEE: Linda Ehlers.
READER: Ross Jones.
USHER: Priscilla Edick & Barb Sluyter.
GREETER: Kate Huxtable.

DECEMBER 22 COFFEE: JoAnn Mead.
READER: Geri Erwin.
USHER: Ross & Donna Jones.
GREETER: Maxine Armstrong.

DECEMBER 29 COFFEE: Priscilla Edick.
NURSERY: Priscilla Edick.
READER: Alexis Fahey.
USHER: Larry Belcher & Kate Huxtable.
GREETER: Priscilla Edick.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS and SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Please consider sharing flowers for the sanctuary. Sign-up is on the Fellowship room table. Rowena Robertson 315-858-0652.

2nd MILE GIVING OUTREACH MINISTRY for December
Church World Service.

Bible 101 continues on December 3rd at 6:30 pm or December 5th at 3pm. Both sessions will cover the same topics so come to either. This month we will be looking at some of the historical books of the Old Testament; Joshua, Judges, 1st and 2nd Samuel and 1st and 2nd Kings. Together will will learn about how the Israelite people came into the Promised Land and formed their first kingdom. Bible 101 is a great opportunity to connect with scripture and we hope to see you there.
Pastor Casey

FOOD BANK

Particular need is for: Canned goods of any kind, especially canned meat, fruits, and vegetables, spaghetti sauce, soup, cold cereal, and peanut butter. We are thankful for any and all donations to the Food Bank, and to the volunteers for this work.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

There is no class on Dec 29th, but classes will resume Sunday, January 5, 2020.
Children go to class after a special message from Pastor Casey. Bring your children, grandchildren, even your neighbor children! Children preschool - grade 6 are welcome.

PRAYER CHAINS

"But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." — Hebrews 13:16

When you receive a message, please call the next person. If you get an answering machine, please leave a message.

PRAYER CHAIN 1:

Linda Ehlers 858-1833
Sue Sheldon 858-2681
Carrie Gardner 858-0694
Geri Erwin 858-2103
Rowena Robertson 858-0652
Carol Simpson 868-0319

PRAYER CHAIN 2:

Patti Lou Leopold 858-2706
Shirley Dreis 858-0667
Maureen Kennedy 858-1631
Kate Huxtable 858-1566
Donna Jones 858-2357
Nancy Strongreen 858-9483

EVENTS

Sundays following Worship - CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
+Every Monday 2 pm PRAYER SHAWL & QUILTING GROUP
+Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9 am EXERCISE CLASS
+Every Wednesday night 5:30-6:30 Weight Watchers
+Every Tues and Thurs 10am-noon FOOD PANTRY- Not 11/28
+2nd & 4th Saturdays 11am-noon FOOD PANTRY
+Every 1st Tues BIBLE 101 Class 6:30 pm
+Every 4th Tues Bereavement at 7:00 pm – but not this December.


+Dec 1 Annual Community Candle Lighting Service of
Remembrance at 3 pm

+Dec 3 Bible 101 Class at 6:30 pm

+Dec 5 Bible 101 Class at 3 pm same topic as Dec 3rd.

+Dec 8 Book Discussion 3 pm. Book Discussion is also
Dec 15, 22, 29, and January 5th. The book is called,
Sent: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas"

+Dec 10 COCU Board meeting 6:30 pm

+Dec 15 Christmas Caroling 
Tom Shypski is letting us borrow his wagon after church.
We'll be leaving at 11am (meeting here at church).

+Dec 19 Guild Christmas Party/Gift Wrap at COCU.
6:00 PM-Social time/dessert; 6:30 PM; Business meeting.
Dessert: Carrie Gardner; Hostess: Linda Watkins. RSVP to
Carrie by Dec. 17 at 315-858-0694.
New members welcome!

+Dec 24 Food Pantry is closed for Christmas Eve.

+Dec 24 Bereavement is canceled for Christmas Eve.

+Dec 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE** service is at 7 pm –(here).

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
OF OUR LORD 2020 !**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

12/5 Heather Snyder

12/5 Christopher Michael Calkins

12/6 Mary Stanfield

12/7 Dale Ann Barra

12/10 Sam Cornell

12/11 Mary Wilde

12/12 Samantha Calkins

12/12 Lester Olmsted

12/16 Cory Mahardy

12/20 Aedan Osborn

12/20 Maggie Worobey

12/25 Jesus

12/30 Charles LaFrance

12/30 Taylor Hallberg

12/30 Kristy Zaitseva

12/31 Ivy LaFrance

1 /2 Brady Young



HAPPY ANIVERSARY!

Dec 15 Mort & Rowena Robertson

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES

Please check any areas that you would be willing to help with. You will be "trained" and placed on a schedule. If unavailble the day scheduled, trade with another on the list, and let us know.

Usher

Reader

Sunday Greeter

Sunday Coffee Host

Sunday School Teacher (must be at least 18)

Sunday School Assistant

Nursery Care Provider (must be at least 18)

Nursery Care Assistant

Worship Service Acolyte

Name _____

Contact _____

Please place in offering plate.

GOVERNING BOARD POSITIONS

Chair -- Ross Jones

Christian Education – Michelle Fritts

Church Growth – Jo-Ann Mead

Communications – Faith Young

Fellowship – Rowena Robertson

Missions – John Morris

Property – Ray Smith

Stewardship – Linda Ehlers

Worship – Kate Huxtable