

# Epiphany Wishlist

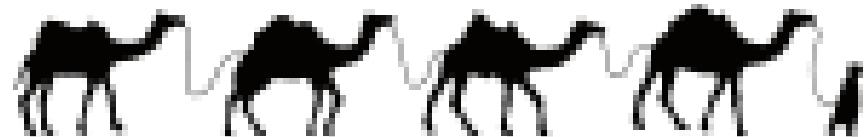
## Building Use

- ◊ Hand Soap
- ◊ Wood cleaner
- ◊ Furniture polish
- ◊ Lysol/ Clorox wipes
- ◊ Diaper wipes
- ◊ Tissues
- ◊ Copy paper
- ◊ Postage stamps
- ◊ Flash drives
- ◊ Sharpie markers
- ◊ Dawn dish soap
- ◊ Toilet paper
- ◊ Paper towels
- ◊ Dusters
- ◊ Toilet bowl cleaner
- ◊ Scotch tape
- ◊ Duct tape

## Community Meal Wishlist (assuming 1 case = 24 cans)

- ◊ Corn 2 cases
- ◊ Peas 1 case
- ◊ Mixed vegetables 1 case
- ◊ Spaghetti noodles and 1 case Spaghetti sauce
- ◊ Instant potatoes
- ◊ Cake mixes
- ◊ Pie filling and fruit
- ◊ Canned chicken
- ◊ Ground beef or turkey, frozen
- ◊ Bottled Water
- ◊ Fruit cups

# Epiphany



# Celebration

# St. John's United Church of Christ

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Minister of Music: Mary Albrecht 815-547-7503  
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**WELCOME VISITORS!** Thank you for coming! Please sign a pew card to place in the offering plate.

**WORSHIP:** When reading this bulletin Leader Speaks Plain Font, Everyone Speak Bold Font

## Announcements

- † **Nursery** There is no nursery attendant today so everyone is able to participate in Communion. Kids are welcome to quietly play in the back of the sanctuary or have their adult join them in the nursery.
- † **The Belvidere Group (AA)** meets at everyday at 7pm.
- † **Chair and Mat Yoga** with Katherine Ray is going weekly! Chair yoga at 10 AM and mat yoga at 11:30 AM. No RSVP required and classes are \$5.
- † **Sunday School for Adults and Kids** is on break until Sunday, January 11th, 2026.
- † **Community Meal** December 17th from 5 pm to 6 pm. The menu is chicken and noodles, green beans, fruit, dessert, milk, coffee. The WIC Mobile Unit from the Health Department will be parked in the parking lot from 4 pm to 7 pm.



Delicious Fundraiser



Amazon List



T-Shirts

Praise God, above ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Prayer of Dedication

Radiant God, you have revealed your dwelling among us—in bread shared, in mercy offered, in justice imagined and begun. We thank you for the gifts that flow like rivers, for the abundance that rises from the sea, for the courage to give and to receive. Bless now these offerings and the hearts from which they come. Let them join the caravans of compassion moving through this world, bringing joy where despair has lingered, and peace where fear has taken root.

**Look! God's dwelling is now among us. May our lives shine with the glory of God, our hands carry God's grace, and our gifts become good news for all creation. Amen.**

## Hymn #139 "The First Noel" (Verse 1, 2, and 5)

## Closing Prayer

People of God, lift your eyes and see: the Holy One's presence fills the earth. The sea still carries abundance, the caravans still bring gifts, and the world still waits for the radiance you bear. Go now as stargazers of the Spirit— seeking justice, sharing compassion, celebrating joy, and walking in peace. Let your lives be light enough to travel and bright enough to reveal love's way.

**Look! God's dwelling is now among us. We lift our eyes and go in joy. Amen.**

## Benediction

*Lift Up: Service Prayers for Epiphany Year A was written by Rev. Michael Anthony Howard who serves as Minister of Faith in Action for Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast. Michael's work supports congregations as they weave theology, justice, and place-based ministry into faithful action that bears prophetic witness to God's dwelling among us.*

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Scripture**    Isaiah 60:1-6  
                  Matthew 2

### Sermon “Bandwagons Verses Caravans”

#### Service of Communion

##### Blessing and Sharing the Elements

*All are invited to participate in this Holy symbol of Communion. You are invited to eat the as a sign of your own personal faith and hold the cup to drink together as a sign of our communion faith.*

##### Prayer of Thanksgiving

##### Invitation to Generosity

People of God, the caravans are moving again—hands open, hearts lifted, bearing what creation has always longed to give.

**From the abundance of the sea, gifts rise; from the fragrance of the earth, praise ascends. We come with the treasures of our lives—our time, our care, our courage, our hope—the offerings that make justice visible and joy possible.**

Let what we bring become blessing, a sign that God's dwelling is among us, that generosity itself is revelation.

**Holy One, receive the gifts we share. Turn them toward compassion, stretch them toward peace, and let your joy be known through all we do.**

##### Moment for Mission~ Sri Lanka

##### Doxology

Praise God, through whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,



#### Prelude

#### Announcements

#### Choral Introit #154 “Go Tell it on the Mountain” (Refrain, Vs. 1, Refrain)

#### Responsive Welcome Statement

At St. John's United Church of Christ, we are Living Outwardly & Valuing Everyone!

##### We live and work amid God's love!

In that spirit, we extend love to all who come into our midst, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, nationality, skin color, culture, differing abilities, age or political affiliations, to participate fully in all aspects of church.

##### Our ministry is to bring the Good News of Christ's love to all.

We work in God's name to tear down walls and build community,

##### to walk with each other through all of life's circumstances,

to provide for those in need,

##### to offer comfort to the hurting and the sick, and to uplift the brokenhearted.

##### Where we fail, we ask for God's forgiveness.

May the Holy Spirit and our siblings continue to challenge us to do better.

##### No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

#### Lighting the Epiphany Candles

#### Call to Worship

(Seeker of Radiance)

Rise and shine — the Light is revealed. Look! God's dwelling is now among us. From the sea comes abundance, from the desert comes hope; all creation moves toward joy.

I lift my eyes up.

**We lift our eyes up.**

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

(Seeker of Prayer)

Like frankincense, we offer our prayers, that our longing may breathe with God's longing, that our voices rise with all who seek peace.

I lift my eyes up.

**We lift our eyes up.**

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

(Seeker of Healing)

Like myrrh, we offer compassion— balm for the broken, mercy for the wounded. Where rivalries have ruled, grace now gathers; the scattered come home, nations share their treasures.

I lift my eyes up.

**We lift our eyes up.**

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

(Seeker of Joy)

Let us desire what God desires— life for all creation, justice that sets every captive free, and joy where justice is fulfilled. The end of God's justice is joy. The end of God's compassion is peace.

**Look! God's dwelling is now among us. I lift my eyes up. We lift our eyes up. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!**

### Invocation

**Radiant and Revealing God, you dwell not in temples or thrones but among us— in caravans of mercy, in the faces of those returning home, in the shimmering abundance of the sea. You are the star that stirs our seeking, the Presence that refuses to be hidden, the Word made flesh in neighbor and stranger alike. As we gather, let your justice take root in our hearts, your joy rise on our lips, your compassion steady our hands, and your peace settle upon this world you so dearly love.**

**Lift our eyes, O Holy One, so that we may see as you see— creation radiant, humanity restored, and your dwelling now among us. Amen.**

**Hymn #159 "As With Gladness"**

**Young at Heart Time**

**Pastoral Prayer~ The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn #148 "What Child is This?" (Verses 1 & 3)**

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Holy One who dwells among us, you call us to rise, to see, and to rejoice— yet too often we turn inward, protecting our comfort instead of pursuing your justice.

**When your radiance invites us to lift our eyes, we close them against the pain of the world. When your abundance flows like the sea, we grasp rather than share. When your caravans of mercy draw near, we hesitate to join the journey.**

Forgive us, O God. Lift us once more into your light of love. Transform the fear that keeps us small into courage that acts with compassion. Renew the weariness that dims our hope into joy that moves us toward peace.

**Look! God's dwelling is now among us.**

**By grace, we are made new.**

**Amen.**

### Words of Grace

People of God, hear this good news: The Holy One has not remained distant or hidden. Look! God's dwelling is now among us— radiant with mercy, generous with forgiveness, overflowing with new life.

In every act of justice, in every gesture of compassion, in every moment of peace, Christ is revealed.

**We lift our eyes and see. By grace, we are forgiven. By love, we are made whole. Thanks be to God!**

### Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,**