

# ~ Welcome ~

## WE GATHER

Prelude "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"  
*Arr. by Cindy Berry*

Welcome & Announcements  
\*Greeting

## WE PRAISE

\*Opening Hymn "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" UMH No. 203

\*Call to Worship

*Leader: The prophet Isaiah declared that justice and peace shall come through the family of Jesse.*

**People: This justice shall be for all of creation.**

*Leader: Peace shall be established in all the world.*

**People: Get ready! Prepare for God's peace to reign!**

*Leader: Blessed be God who does such wondrous things!*

**People: We give thanks to God for this time of healing and hope. Amen**

\*Morning Prayer

**Patient and loving God, we so easily launch ourselves in preparation for the secular festival of giving and parties and the swirl of social events; but we forget that the true preparation is the readiness of our hearts to receive you. Help us look again at our lives and turn them around so that they may be in tune with your will. We ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath "Centered in Love" by: Haddix Family  
"Love Came Down at Christmas" (vs. 1) UMH #242

Song of Praise "Justice, Mercy, and Peace" (Psalm 72) Sung by: Children's Choir

## WE CELEBRATE COMMUNITY

Children's Time "An Angel Appears to Joseph" Millie Frambaugh  
*At the conclusion of Children's Time all children age 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to go with the teachers for Sunday School. Nursery care for younger children is also available.*

Prayers of the People

Sharing our Joys & Concerns  
Silent Prayer  
Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.*

\*Gloria Patri

No. 70

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning; is now and ever shall be:  
World without end! Amen, Amen!*

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

**All: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

Scripture Reading  
Isaiah 40:1-5 p. 666  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 p. 538  
Matthew 3:1-12 p. 891

Message "God the Father's Love" Pastor Jane Piehl

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering

The Questions of Christmas "Who Would Send a Baby?" Sung by: Choir  
*By: Mary Kay Beall*

\*Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all Creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*Offertory Prayer

## WE GO FORTH

\*Closing Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1, 3, 4, 6) UMH No. 211

\*Benediction

*Prepare for the coming of the Lord! Make way in your hearts for love! Get rid of all anger and fear, for God is about to bring incredible light to the world! Go in peace and confidence as witnesses to God's love. Amen.*

\*Postlude

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"  
*Arr. by Carol Tornquist*

\*Indicates congregation to stand

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Pastor Jane Piehl  
Millie Frambaugh  
Charlie Tramel  
Bill Baldwin, Ann Passmore  
Mason & Conor Haddix

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Pastor  
Music Director  
Lay Speaker  
Greeters  
Acolytes

### Welcome to Sharon Center United Methodist Church!

If you are visiting with us for the first time, we are glad you are here! Please make sure to sign the attendance pad as it is passed during the service and let us know your contact information. We welcome all to our Worship Service and our Communion Table is open to everyone. Please join us in our activities and gatherings and if you have a question, just ask, and come back again soon! At Sharon Center UMC we are committed to building relationships with Jesus Christ. For families of all ages, this is a great community to join as you grow in your relationship with God and with others.

[www.sharoncenterumc.org](http://www.sharoncenterumc.org)

### SHARON CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Service: 10:30am

Church Office: (330) 239-1616

SharonCenterUMCSecretary@gmail.com

Church hours: Mon, Weds 11a-1p, Fri 11a-3p

December 8, 2019

Pastor Jane Piehl

JanePiehl@gmail.com

# Prayer List

Dora Barnes  
Norma Bates

Richard Lewis

Guy & Wanda Quick  
Mary Jane Winters

## This Week

Sun	4p	Sparks meeting		see Pastor Jane
	5p	scout mtg		
Mon	5:30p	scout mtg		
	7p	Bell Choir Practice	Sanctuary	see Millie F.
Thurs	10a	Because of Bethlehem Study Conference	rm.	See Randy R.
	7p	Choir practice	Sanctuary	see Millie F.
Sat	9a-noon	Cookie & Craft Sale	Fellowship Hall	see Nikki F.
	10a	Christmas musical practice		see Millie F.

## Upcoming Events

12/15	Children's Christmas musical
12/22 3p	Blue Christmas Service
12/24 7p	Christmas Eve Service

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Lunch Bunch** – Lunch Bunch will be going to *Sereneté*, 538 W. Liberty Str. Medina, OH on Dec. 19, 11:30a. The car pool will leave the church at 11am. Please sign up on the sheet located under the bulletin board by the stairs to the balcony. Please let us know if you will be driving on your own. We order our meals from the menu and each person pays for their own meal. Everyone is invited – bring a friend!

**Cookie & Craft Sale** – This year's **Cookie & Craft Sale is on Dec. 14 from 9a-noon**. Cost is \$8/ lb and crafts are variable priced. **We are still in need of cookie/ treat donations**. A sign up sheet is posted for cookies, treat, and craft donations. Let's aim for 25 different varieties of cookies! Please write down what you would like to donate so we don't have multiples of the same.

**Thursday morning study** – Our next study will begin on Dec. 12 and is titled *Because of Bethlehem* by: Max Lucado. The Thursday morning study meets at 10am in the Conference Room.

**Children's Christmas Musical** - Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 15! That's when "Chance", "Daphne", "Penelope", and "George" (better known as "The Fumbly, Bumbly Angels"!)) will try and earn their place in the heavenly choir!! This children's musical promises to be lots of fun. The children have learned a few songs already. We will be practicing on from 10:00-11:30 on Dec. 14. After the rehearsal on the 14th, the kids will stay

another hour and make gingerbread houses! Please mark your calendars and join in the fun!

**Sparks** – The Sparks will hold their December gathering on Dec. 8 at 4pm. Details are still being finalized but we are planning to sing Carols at a local nursing home then meet back at the church for activities.

**Winter Weather Notice** – Please note that if a LEVEL 2 OR LEVEL 3 SNOW EMERGENCY is issued by the Medina County Sheriff's Office, the Church will be closed and there will be no services.

**Luminaries** - We are in need of 1/2 gallon and gallon clear milk jugs. If you would be willing to save what you have or use, please rinse them out and bring them to church. You can place them on the counter in the kitchen. We will do the rest! Please help make our church look beautiful this Christmas Eve!

**Adopt a Family** - We will be sponsoring our annual adopt a family through the Highland Community Support Network this Christmas. The Christmas Tree is in the back of the sanctuary. A tag can be taken, purchase item, return unwrapped with gift receipt by Sun. Dec. 15.

**Blue Christmas Service** - Comfort, comfort my people, says your God." Isaiah 40:1 The community is invited to a special service on Sunday, December 22 at 3:00 PM for a Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance, Healing and Hope in our Sanctuary.

What is Blue Christmas or Longest Night service? There are many moments in our lives when we need comfort. There are tough times when we yearn for comfort and hope. The suffering people who looked for the long-awaited Messiah were given a hope-filled image of God in the writings of Isaiah. It expresses the belief that no matter what happens to us, God will be there to comfort and support us. Christmas can be a time for many when we are in need of that reassurance and comfort.

Perhaps we are grieving over the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, or have experienced the loss of a job. We wonder how we will get through the holidays.

Those looking for comfort, hope, wholeness, and renewal joined together for a time of quiet reflection and meaningful words and music. All share in the good news of "God with us: Immanuel!" Join us for this meaningful service. Refreshments follow in the Gathering place.