~ 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 5th 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
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
Prayer List

Dora Barnes  Richard Lewis  Guy & Wanda Quick
Norma Bates  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 Serenêité, 538 W. Liberty Str. Medina, OH on Dec. 19, 11:30a. The car pool will leave the church at 11:00am. 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.