

# ~ Welcome ~

## WE GATHER

Prelude

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*Arr. by Cindy Berry*

Welcome & Announcements

\*Greeting

## WE PRAISE

\*Opening Hymn

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

UMH No. 218

\*Call to Worship

*Leader: In the midst of darkness, God brings a new light.*

**People: Thanks be to the God of light.**

*Leader: In the midst of confusion and fear, God brings hope and peace.*

**People: Thanks be to the God of peace.**

*Leader: In the midst of strife and stress, God comforts and soothes us.*

**People: Let us praise God who truly loves us and brings us new life. Amen**

\*Morning Prayer

**Lord of all life and all seasons, help us open our hearts to hear the words of promise and love that you send to us. Like Joseph, may we trust in your abiding love and power. Prepare us to receive your gift of grace and peace. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath "Centered in Peace"

"Blessed Be the God of Israel" (vs. 1)

by: Wemmer Family

UMH # 209

The Questions of Christmas "Will We Know Him?"

*By: Don Besig and Nancy Price*

Sung by: Choir

## WE CELEBRATE COMMUNITY

Children's Time

"Don't Miss Christmas!"

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 7:10-16

p. 637

Romans 1:1-7

p. 1037

Matthew 1:18-25

p. 889

Message

"What Kind of Gift is a Nutcracker?"

Pastor Jane Piehl

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering

\*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

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

UMH No. 431

\*Benediction

*Place your trust in God, for God is with you. Listen carefully for God's loving whisper in this time--the words will give you healing and hope. Go in peace and may God's peace always be with you. Amen*

\*Postlude

"The Birthday of a King" with "Away in a Manger"

*Arr. by Tom Fettke*

\*Indicates congregation to stand

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Pastor Jane Piehl  
Millie Frambaugh  
Elaine Mravetz  
Bill Baldwin, Ann Passmore  
Chloe & Mason Brosch

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Pastor  
Music Director  
Lay Speaker  
Greeters  
Acolytes

Join us for refreshments following the service.

### 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 22, 2019

Pastor Jane Piehl

JanePiehl@gmail.com

## Prayer List

Dora Barnes  
Norma Bates

Richard Lewis

Guy & Wanda Quick  
Mary Jane Winters

### This Week

<b>Sun</b>	<b>3p</b>	<b>Blue Christmas Service</b>		
Mon	7p	Bell Choir Practice	Sanctuary	See Millie F.
<b>Tues</b>	<b>7p</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b>		
<b>Weds</b>		<b>Merry Christmas!</b>		
Thurs	10a	Because of Bethlehem Study Conference rm.		See Randy R.
Sun		Bell Choir performs		

### Upcoming Events

1/14	7p	"Grace is Greater" study begins	Conference rm.	See Nancy V.
2/2		Sub Sandwich Sale		See Nikki F.
2/9		Valentine Care packages for college students deadline		

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Lunch Bunch** – Lunch Bunch will be going to *Dewey's Pizza*, 3265 Fairlawn, OH on Jan. 16, 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!

**Thursday morning study** – Is titled *Because of Bethlehem* by: Max Lucado. The Thursday morning study meets at 10am in the Conference Room.

**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.

**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.

**Sub Sandwich Sale** – Our Annual Super Bowl Sunday Sub Sandwich Sale will be Feb. 2. Ordering and info will begin the start of the year.

**Valentine Care packages for college students** – Let the office know of college students and addresses by Feb. 2. Deadline for treats and goodies collection is Feb. 9.

**Tuesday evening study** – We will start discussing *Grace is Greater* by Kyle Idleman on Jan. 14 at 7pm in the Conference Room.