

Oak Chapel United Methodist Church

4203 West Old Lincoln Way

Wooster, Ohio

330-264-2537

Robin D. Dillon, *Pastor*

December 23, 2012



Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Serving Christ and Community

Through Love, Compassion, Fellowship &
Caring

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Words of Welcome, Informal Moments and Parish Notes

Please sign the attendance register at the end of the pew so that we might know of your presence with us today.

Prelude

Jen Moser, Organist

*Call to Worship

Bill Feldman, Liturgist

One: We come to glorify God, to rejoice in the One who saves us.

All: God comes, so we might believe, so we might be blessed.

One: Our hearts leap for joy! For God is coming to us in a child.

All: God comes for those who hunger for hope, for those who thirst for grace.

One: Holy is the One who comes in God's name, who fulfills every promise of God.

All: God comes to walk with those who follow in faith, to bring peace to a shattered world.

*Hymn of Praise

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

No. 234

*Unison Prayer of Confession

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today. O Holy God, Spirit and Son, we confess that we do not always sing your praises. We do not remember your call to the poor and hungry as a challenge to be met in joyful giving, but we grumble and stress about how to meet the needs of so many. We allow ourselves to be overwhelmed, to become negative about the world and its people, and at times, we throw up our hands in the air, ready to give up. Call us out of our comfort zone, O God, and to remember that you came to us, Word Incarnate, Living Flesh. You lived as we do and you call us into a new way of life. Remind us that we are important, we are loved, and we have a purpose in you, and that even the little we do makes a difference for your reign on earth. In the name of Emmanuel, Jesus, God With Us, The One Who Saves, we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria Patri

“Glory Be to the Father”

No. 70

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle *The Burckhart Family*
Response: **Living Christ, light of the world, give us faith to trust you, hope to follow you, and love to live for you. Amen.**

Advent Candle Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"
No. 206, vs. 1

Old Testament Lesson Micah 5: 2 – 5a
Pew Bible Page 973

Choral Anthem *Magnificat*

A Message for the Young and Young-at-Heart

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer No. 895

*Hymn "Star-Child" *see insert*

Reading of the Gospel Lesson Luke 1: 39 – 56
Pew Bible page 1070

Sermon "The Gift of Faith" *Pastor Robin*

The Worship of God with Tithes and Offerings

*Doxology No. 95

*Dedication of our Gifts

*Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 230

*Dismissal with Blessing

Sung Benediction Response *to the tune of Silver Bells*

*Go in peace, Go with joy
Sharing God's light with each other.
May we be strong, all life long
Sheltered in God's loving care.*

** = Please stand if you are able*

Please pray for ...

Our church, its leaders and our vision for the future; our community; Marjorie Silver; The Houser Family; Betty Taylor; Jean Schaffter; David Houser; Michael Everett; Norma Orr; Bob & Marie Houghton; Amanda Jackson; Mona Moser (Darrell's mother); Karen Biliter (Christy Rickard's co-worker); Linda (teacher at Tri-way Schools); Mike Kindy (nephew of Joyce Kaufman); Linda McNeil (Connie Garg's cousin); Leola Webb (Connie Garg's aunt); Brad Husk (Lisa Renker's friend); Judy (Alice Giffin's sister); Rob Jester (Sue Braucher's brother); Richard Liston (friend of Jim & Joyce Kaufman); Don & Shirley Assenheimer (friends of Carol Gossage); Bill Brown (friend of Georgia Taylor); Carol VanKirk (friend of Katy Armbrust); Josh Drouhard (friend of Lori Hauser); Dana and David (friends of Cyndi Boyer); Art Davis (relative of Cyndi Boyer); Dick Hayden (Evelyn Silver's brother-in-law); Ralph (Al Starkey's brother); Lillian Templeton (Marge Starkey's cousin); Gerald "Jake" Case (Sandy Treece's brother); Ellen Horst (Kevin Horst's mother); Pat Young (Jeff Burckhart's mother); Cheryl Phillips (friend of Sandy Treece); Crystal Meier (co-worker of Sandy Treece); and Dotti & Bill Udell (co-worker of Sandy Treece and Jen Moser).

This week's activities include ...

Today	UMYF	6:30pm
Monday, 12/24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7:00pm
Tuesday, 12/25	HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!	

Looking Ahead ...

Wednesday, 1/2	Choir rehearsal	7:30pm
Thursday, 1/3	Worship Committee	7:00pm
Saturday, 1/5	Weight Loss Support Group	9:15am
Sunday, 1/6	Celebration of Epiphany	10:30am
Monday, 1/7	Retirees Breakfast - -Milltown	8:00am
	SPRC Meeting	7:00pm
Thursday, 1/10	Outreach (Missions & Evangelism)	10:30am
Sunday, 1/13	Installation of Officers during worship	

Church Office Closed this week ...

Pastor Robin will be visiting with family this week and will not have regular office hours. She will be periodically checking e-mail and is available via her cell phone (330-485-6878) for pastoral emergencies.

Christmas Eve Service ...

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on Monday, December 24 at 7:00pm. In addition to Communion, the choir will present a cantata, *Tapestry of Light: A Celtic Christmas Celebration*. Tapestry of Light is a joining of traditional carols, primarily from the British Isles, with scripture reading and candle lighting. You will not want to miss this! Invite your friends and family.

Food collections for People to People Ministries ...

Thank you for your continued support of People to People Ministries. Beginning in Sunday, January 6, we will collect food items just once a month on the first Sunday of each month. The food items will be brought to the Lord's Table during our time of Communion. In this way, as we remember Christ and feast on the table he has prepared for us, we will also help meet the most basic needs of our brothers and sisters.

Colors of Christmas ...

We continue our annual tradition of the "colors of Christmas." Everyone is encouraged to wear these colors throughout the season. Today's color is Blue which signifying eternity. The colors for the remainder of the season are as follows:

Monday, December 24 – (Christmas Eve) – White (signifying purity)

Sunday, December 30 – Gold (signifying riches)

Epiphany

Epiphany, also known as "Three Kings Day" and "Twelfth Day," is a Christian holiday commemorated on January 6. It falls on the twelfth day after Christmas, and for some denominations signals the conclusion of the twelve days of the Christmas season. The word *epiphany* means "manifestation" or "revelation" and is commonly linked in Western Christianity with the visit of the wise men (Magi) to the Christ child. We will celebrate this occasion with Communion on Sunday, January 6.

