

December 13, 2020  
Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome, Announcements and Parish Notes Pastor John

Prelude Jen Moser

\*Responsive Reading (Psalm 126:1-3) J.J. Cline

One: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

All: We were like those who dreamed.

One: Our mouths were filled with laughter,

All: Our tongues with songs of joy.

One: Then it was said among the nations,

All: "The Lord has done great things for them."

One: The Lord has done great things for us,

All: And we are filled with joy.

\*Hymn "Lift Every Voice and Sing" No 519  
(Verse 1)

\*Prayer of Affirmation and Assurance

Almighty God, we are filled with joy, looking forward with great anticipation to the sacred celebration of the birth of your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. What a wonderful gift, a new beginning, a life-changing event. May this time of reflection reignite the Spirit within each of us and lead us into a closer relationship with you, now and forevermore. Amen!

Lighting the Advent Candle The Kitchen Family

Unison Prayer

Father, guide us to heed the call from Paul to rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, and to give thanks in all circumstances, for this is your will in Christ Jesus. May our journey through your Word bring us ever closer to you as we seek a life of obedience and holiness that influences others to do likewise while bringing honor and glory to your name, today and always. Amen!

Call to Confession Pastor John

Prayer of Confession

God of Mercy, God of Grace, we humbly confess our sins as we seek your abundant grace and mercy, which we know will cleanse and purify us and make us holy and pleasing in your sight. Through the precious blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we boldly proclaim our faith and give thanks for the renewed hope, joy, and peace that comes through our fortified relationship with you. Amen!

Prayer of Illumination Pastor John

First Scripture Reading (John 1:29-34) J.J. Cline

Second Reading (I Thessalonians 5:16-24) Pastor John

Response One: Let us Rejoice in God's Holy Word!

All: For His Word brings us Light, Hope, and Joy!

\*Gloria Patri No. 70

\*Hymn "Jesus! the Name High over All" No. 193  
(Verses 3 and 4)

Sermon "Eyewitness Testimony" Pastor John

Our Morning Prayer

As we gather today as a fellowship of believers, let us lift up our prayers and petitions at this time.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer No. 895

Presentation to God of Our Gifts

\*Doxology No. 95

\*Hymn "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" No. 203  
(Verses 3 and 4)

Benediction and Postlude

\*=please stand in body or spirit

Colors of Christmas

We continue our tradition of the "Colors of Christmas."

Sunday, 12/20 – Blue (signifying eternity)

Thursday, 12/24 – (Christmas Eve) – White

(signifying purity)

Sunday, 12/27 – Gold (signifying riches)

Financial News

Tithes and Offerings needed each Sunday for budgeted expenses (November 2020): \$1,496

Received last month:

11/01 - \$2,401

11/08 - \$2,180

11/15 - \$1,610

11/22 - \$962

11/29 - \$443

As of 11/30/2020, we received about 102% of our budgeted income for the month of November and 83% YTD. Our recent monthly donations continue to improve our YTD performance. On top of that, we received \$225 for the Salvation Army (in lieu of bell ringing), \$465 for the Food Pantry and \$2,300 for livestreaming equipment. Oak Chapel is alive and well!

Christmas Eve Service

We want to be able to provide for as many people as possible to worship in person on Christmas Eve. We believe we can safely accommodate 75 people in the sanctuary at one time. Ushers will seat you in a safe area that will appropriately accommodate individuals or groups of varying sizes. In addition, we are working on having a livestream option which can be viewed from Fellowship Hall or the comfort of your own home. If you wish to continue to worship from your car, the FM feed will be available or if you want to reserve a room for your family in the church we can provide that as well. Masks will be required in all areas inside the church with the exception of family rooms.



### Our Prayer List

Our neighbors and our community, those serving in the armed forces, our country, its leaders

### Our Church Family

Jennifer Adair	April Aten
Betsy Bower	Arden Boyer
Bill Feldman	Bill Stewart
Esther Franks	Wayne Kahrig
Elsie Mykrantz	Betty Princehorn
Christy Rickard	Patti Ritchey
Elaine Sprinkle	Roger Burckhart

Our church and all houses of worship

### Our Friends, Family and Neighbors

Sue - Steve Gossage's daughter  
 Dale - Connie Reed's friend  
 Ed - Connie Reed's friend  
 Kay - Connie Reed's friend  
 Susan - Connie Reed's friend  
 Kim - Cindy Mykrantz's friend  
 Family of Bill Troutman - Bob Troutman's brother  
 COVID vaccine

### Opportunities for Ministry This Week

Sunday 12/13	Worship	10:30 am
Monday 12/14	Bible Study	9:30 am
	Finance	6:00 pm
	Admin. Council	6:30 pm
	Trustees	7:00 pm
	(via Zoom)	
Tuesday 12/15	Girl Scouts	6:30 pm

### Looking Ahead

Sunday 12/20	Worship	10:30 am
Monday 12/21	Bible Study	9:30 am
Tuesday 12/22	Girl Scouts	6:30 pm
Thursday 12/24	Christmas Eve Service	7:00 pm

Friday 12/25 Christmas Day



### Youth Group:

Our Youth Group typically meets the first and third Sundays of every month from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Gathering Grounds. Our leader provides a lesson that is followed by open discussion. We also have time for fun, games, and a light snack. Due to our current concern for the health and safety of our youth and their families youth meetings have been cancelled for the time being. We hope to resume our youth gatherings early next year.

Join us from our parking lot at 97.9 FM  
and visit our website at  
oakchapelumc.com

# Oak Chapel United Methodist Church

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 John Finn, *Pastor*

*Serving God and Community  
through Love, Compassion,  
Fellowship and Caring*