

December 12, 2021  
Third Sunday of Advent

Bringing Forth the Light

Prelude Jen Moser, Organist

Welcome and Announcements Pastor John Finn

\*Responsive Reading April Aten, Liturgist

One: The glory of the Lord is upon us!

All: His light turns night into day!

One: We look for His star with great anticipation,

All: For its brilliance will guide us in our journey.

One: May we be ever watchful in this Christmas season

All: As we spread the spirit of hope, peace, joy and love!

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

\*Prayer of Affirmation and Assurance

Lord Jesus, our lives are incomplete and inadequate without you. In this season of promise, we humbly beseech you to help us strengthen our covenant with you — the foundation of our faith — the vital piece that ultimately brings lasting peace. This we pray with solemn reverence and joyful anticipation. Amen!

Lighting the Advent Candle Joy

\*Unison Prayer

Mighty and Merciful God, you have dominion over all of creation. Guide us and strengthen us as we seek to honor you and obey your commandments. We know that the void in our lives can be filled quickly and completely through a deeper relationship with you, so we surrender our heart and our soul as we seek to forge an everlasting covenant with you from this day forward, Amen!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, we give you thanks for your abundant grace and your infinite mercy. Without you, we would be without hope, but because of your sacrifice on the cross and your resurrection from the tomb, we have an invitation to new life. But first, we must confess our sins and seek forgiveness as we also forgive others so that we might find a place in your Father's eternal kingdom. This we pray with humble contrition. Amen!

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Scripture Titus 2:11-14 CEB

New Testament Scripture Luke 2:25-32 CEB

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 "Let All Mortal Flesh Be Silent" No. 626

Message "The Missing Piece" 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 No.895

Lord's Prayer

Presentation to God of Our Gifts

\*Doxology No. 95

\*Hymn "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" No. 160

\*Benediction and Postlude

\*= please stand in body or spirit

Rockin' Around the Chrismon Tree

As the gifts for our young homeless family continue to pile up under the Chrismon Tree, I invite you to take a moment to look up and enjoy the beautiful ornaments on the tree.

Each ornament was exquisitely crafted by members of the Oak Chapel Family, many of whom are now with the angels and the saints in heaven. If I am not mistaken, there are about 75 ornaments on the tree, and each one has a special meaning. Here are just a few of the lesser known Chrismon symbols...

of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**The Owl:** We are all aware of the wisdom associated with the owl with its piercing eyes and keen night vision. This represents the wisdom given to Solomon and reminds us that spiritual wisdom is far more valuable than human knowledge.

**The Shamrock:** I couldn't resist an Irish symbol given my ancestry. It is said that an Irish priest first used the shamrock to help elucidate the almost inexplicable nature of one God in three persons — what we know as the Holy Trinity.

**The Strawberry:** This one was new to me. After all, who hangs a strawberry on one's Christmas Tree, but in this case, the strawberry is representative of the good people of the church — the workers in the field — and that is all of you.

There is a booklet on the first pew in front of the Chrismon Tree. I urge you to pick it up, page through it, and consider the many gifts we have been given as Disciples of the Lord, and how we can use them to reach out to others and exalt God's name in the process.

Celebrate Christmas Eve With Us

You've made your list and checked it twice, but just to be safe, be sure that you have circled December 24th on your holiday calendar. That evening, we will host our annual Christmas Eve service at Oak Chapel. Make plans to join us, and consider inviting a friend or family member as we welcome the Christ child once again into our church and into our lives. The service begins at 7 p.m., and all are welcome!



### Our Prayer List

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

#### Our church family

Jennifer Adair	Elsie Mykrantz
Betsy Bower	Christy Rickard
Bill Feldman	Elaine Sprinkle
Esther Franks	Sandy Treece
Ewing Giffin	Jen Moser
Mark Ritchey	Jim and Patti Pfander

#### Our Friends, Family and Neighbors

All who are suffering with COVID  
Melissa Davis, who is recovering from heart surgery  
Andy, who is recovering from lung surgery  
Kris Hawkinson, who was diagnosed with cancer  
Pat Rickard's mother  
Missionaries being held hostage in Haiti  
Broc and Katy Derr  
Cindy Gabautz  
The families of Mark Lehman and Courtney Kovacs  
The Howard Webb family following the death of his daughter

#### Today's Prayer Concerns

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Names will be removed from this list after three weeks unless otherwise requested.

### Opportunities for Ministry This Week

Sunday 12/12	Sunday School	9:30 am
	Worship	10:30 am
	Young Adult Bible Study	11:30 am
Monday 12/13	Bible Study	9:30 am
	Finance	6:00 pm
	Ad Council	6:30 pm
<b>Looking Ahead</b>		
Sunday 12/19	Sunday School	9:30 am
	Worship	10:30 am
	Fellowship Dinner	11:30 am
	Speaker	12:15 pm
Monday 12/20	Bible Study	9:30 am
	Trustees	6:30 pm
Tuesday 12/21	Days for Girls	1:00 pm
Friday 12/24	Christmas Eve	7:00 pm
Saturday 12/25	Christmas Day	

#### Special Program After Fellowship Dinner, December 19

Plan to join us after Worship for a yummy tradition of good food and fellowship. We have invited Jon Hutchison, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club in Wooster, to speak as we finish eating. Jon works with boys and girls in our area who need extra support in daily living, encouraging and listening to kids and helping them to feel loved and cared for. What can Oak Chapel do to help? Come find out on December 19.

#### United Methodist Women, January 8, 2022

We will start with breakfast at 9:30, followed by a brief business meeting and then a speaker. We have voted to support Operation Christmas Child in 2022. A woman who has supported this project will attend our meeting to give an explanation of this program and how we can best serve the children. Please attend the meeting to hear our speaker who has a great passion for this project. Phyllis Weaver and Sandy Hower have helped her and asked us to help pack 50 boxes back in October. You will be amazed at the things these children need in their everyday lives. Please join us to learn how we can begin to gather items all year around. Please let us know if you plan to attend.

# Oak Chapel United Methodist Church December 12, 2021



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John Finn, *Pastor*

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