

December 26, 2021
Sunday After Christmas

Bringing Forth the Light

Prelude Jen Moser, Organist

Welcome and Announcements Pastor John Finn

*Responsive Reading April Aten, Liturgist

One: May the Peace of Christ rule in our hearts,

All: And may His love dwell richly within us!

One: Let us learn to forgive one another,

All: Just as the Lord has forgiven us!

One: May we be emboldened to live according to His Word,

All: And strengthened in our covenant with Him!

*Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" No. 220

*Prayer of Affirmation and Assurance

Creator of the Universe and all who live in it, let your grace and mercy fall freely upon us. Release your Spirit upon our church so that we may reach our neighbors far and wide. Help us to fulfill your vision for a world in which peace and love flourish and civility and justice prevail because we know that through you, all things are possible.

*Unison Prayer

Teach us, O Lord, to be kind and gentle in the way we treat others so that they may see your loving heart and feel your boundless compassion. Show us the way to a better life through humility, kindness, generosity, patience, and piety. This we pray in your Sacred Name. Amen!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you sent your messengers to preach repentance and prepare the way for salvation. Give us the wisdom to heed those warnings and forsake our sinful nature so that we may joyfully greet the coming of Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen!

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading Colossians 3:12-17 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 "What Child Is This" No. 219

Message "Worthy Questions" 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 "Love Came Down at Christmas" No. 242

*Benediction and Postlude

*= please stand in body or spirit

We welcome Gene and Joyce Varns as new members of Oak Chapel by Letter of Transfer.

From the Pastor's Desk: A Look Ahead to 2022

As 2021 comes to a close and we look forward to 2022, we are reminded just how many things are out of our control.

We entered 2020 with great enthusiasm and optimism, only to be undercut by the pandemic just two months into the year. The following year was not much better with unrest and violence in our nation's capital in the first month and then devastating natural disasters in our country and abroad in the final month. Unfortunately, there was also plenty of turmoil and tragedy in between.

So, how shall we enter the new year? Well, I can state boldly and confidently that Oak Chapel will develop a plan for the coming year, and I invite all of you to be involved. Despite the trials and tribulations of the past two years, you have remained undaunted.

We made significant strides in a number of areas, including the establishment of a food pantry; the renovation of a room that can serve as a "Gathering Grounds" for our youth and any other group; and, of course, the construction of our Serenity Garden, which serves as quiet place for silent reflection where anyone can go to seek peace, comfort, and assurance.

Thanks to all of you, many other great things have happened at Oak Chapel during the past few years, including the continuation of a number of the church's storied traditions.

So, where do we go from here? Well, let's explore that question at our next Fellowship Dinner following our worship service on Jan. 16. Bring your creative ideas, or send them to me ahead of time. We'll put our heads together and develop a plan for future growth, and remember we do not have to do it on our own.

We can take refuge in Scripture, including this passage from I Timothy 1:7-8, which states that "God fills us with the Holy Spirit, who is bold and courageous. We do not have to muster courage and strength on our own. We simply submit to the Spirit of God that is within us."

I'm onboard with that, and I hope you are, too, as we move boldly forward in 2022. May the Peace of Christ continue to lift and inspire you the new year.



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
Ann Kahrig	Cameron Boyer

Our Friends, Family and Neighbors

All who are suffering with COVID
Melissa Davis, who is recovering from heart surgery
Kris Hawkinson, who is recovering from cancer surgery
Broc and Katy Derr and their unborn twins
Jay's wife, who broke her shoulder
Pat Rickard's mother
The Family of Patti Scripts
Miriam's cousin and others in the Philippines impacted by the typhoon

Today's Prayer Concerns

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

Opportunities for Ministry This Week

Sunday 12/26	Sunday School	9:30 am
	Worship	10:30 am
Office Closed 12/27/2021-1/1/2022		
Monday 12/27	Prayer Shawl	6:00 pm

Looking Ahead

Sunday 1/2	Sunday School	9:30 am
	Worship	10:30 am
Monday 1/3	Retirees' Breakfast	8:00 am
	Art & Soul	7:00 pm
Tuesday 1/4	Days for Girls	1:00 pm
Thursday 1/6	Epiphany	
Saturday 1/8	UMM Breakfast	7:30 am
	UMW Meeting	9:30 am

Tornado Relief

UMCOR is responding to the deadly tornadoes. As the massive storm cleanup continues across the country, we ask for your immediate response in prayer and financial support. Please **be there** for survivors by supporting UMCOR US Disaster Response with a gift today. To give by check, please send checks payable to Advance GCFA and mail to:

Global Ministries | UMCOR
GPO
P.O. BOX 9068
NEW YORK, NY 10087-9068

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.

Oak Chapel United Methodist Church December 26, 2021



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John Finn, *Pastor*

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