

December 18, 2022

Bringing Forth the Light

Prelude Jen Moser, Organist

Welcome and Announcements Pastor John

*Responsive Reading (From Psalm 111) Phyllis Weaver

One: Great are the works of the Lord;

All: They are pondered by all who delight in them!

One: Glorious and majestic are his deeds!

All: His righteousness endures forever!

One: The Lord is gracious and compassionate;

All: He provides food for those who fear him.

One: He remembers his covenant forever,

All: Giving them the lands of other nations.

One: The works of his hands are faithful and just;

All: All of his precepts are trustworthy.

*Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (V. 1-4) No. 211

*Prayer of Affirmation and Assurance Phyllis Weaver

Lord Jesus, when you left this world, you did not leave us alone. Instead, you provided the Holy Spirit to guide, counsel, inspire, and encourage us. We are so very grateful for this wonderful gift, which resides within us, and enables us to share our faith and testimony with others. In your Mighty Name we pray, Amen!

Prayer of Reflection Pastor John

Lighting the Advent Candle Erica Boyer and Alex Merwin

Prayer of Illumination Phyllis Weaver

Great and Powerful God, your eternal flame provides light to our generation, even in the midst of darkness and despair. May your light continue to shine in our lives, and may we reflect your brilliance so that all may see, believe, and obey. This we pray in great reverence for your sovereignty over all of creation. Amen!

Call to Confession Pastor John

Prayer of Confession Pastor John

Almighty God, we confess that we are often swept up in the tide of our generation, and therefore fail in our calling to be your holy people. Help up to make room in our hearts for you and shield us from the temptations that seek to distract and destroy us. In your infinite mercy, forgive our sins, revive our spirit, and reshape us in your image so that we may become holy and pleasing in your sight. Amen!

Prayer of Preparation for the Word Pastor John

First Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-3 Phyllis Weaver

Second Scripture: Romans 12:3-8 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 "There's a Song in the Air" No. 249

Message "Stocking Stuffers" Pastor John

Our Morning Prayer Pastor John

The Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Our Gifts to God Pastor John

*Doxology No. 95

*Hymn: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" No. 251

Benediction Pastor John

Postlude Jen Moser

**=An Invitation to Stand in Body or Spirit*



Exciting Opportunities to Study and Discuss God's Word

If you are looking for some additional spiritual enrichment, Oak Chapel will have two concurrent adult Sunday School classes, beginning in January.

Surprised by Hope

The first is a new study based on a book by biblical scholar N.T. Wright, titled "Surprised by Hope." The book and the study will reveal the full scope of what God's Word has to say about heaven and the hope the gospel holds for the present life. The six-session class, which begins on Jan. 8, includes video teachings and follow-up discussion questions that focus on (1) Hope for the World; (2) The Hope of the Resurrection; (3) The Hope of Heaven; (4) The Hope of Jesus' Second Coming; (5) The Hope of Salvation; and (6) The Hope of the Church. All are welcome!

Chosenness

The Chosenness Bible Study group, which has met more than 20 Sundays at Oak Chapel, will continue into the new year. The class began by discussing the importance of Chosenness in the establishment and development of religions such as Christianity, Judaism, and Islam; and the recruitment of observers. The group has had in-depth discussions on such topics as forgiveness, parenting, friendship, judging, rejoicing, adversity, and the sovereignty of God the Father. The Bible is the sole source for the study. The group is currently discussing justification, righteousness, sanctification, condemnation and acquittal. The discussions are designed to be comfortable for those who actively participate and for those choosing to reflect silently. All are welcome!



Gracious God, as we prepare to celebrate the gift of your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we pause from our busy schedules to spend time in quiet reflection. Hear our voices as we lift up the following praises and prayers before you...

Praises

- *For Anita and Herb Berry, who are home from the hospital
- *For Cathy Shallenberger's friend, who has reunited with her son after 60 years
- *For Ava Quinn, who had good test results and is recovering

Prayers

- *For Jennifer Adair following the passing of her brother
- *For Bob and Rosie Troutman as they recover from an illness
- *For Alison Flanagan's friend as she recovers from Covid
- *For Miriam Zech's brother, Paul, as he recovers from Covid
- *For John Hower as he prepares for upcoming treatments
- *For Megan, who is scheduled to have surgery
- *For Chris, who is scheduled to have hip surgery
- *For Cliff Johnston, who was recently diagnosed with ALS
- *For Mike Bruno, who has been diagnosed with melanoma
- *For Nancy Miller, whose stepdaughter passed away
- *For peace and harmony for Becky Schlund's three sons
- *For Steve and Carol Gossage during their time in Florida

Christmas Services

- Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m. (Color: White)**
- Christmas Day Service 10:30 a.m. (Color: Gold)**

Spreading Christmas Cheer and Fellowship

All are cordially invited to join The Chosenness Bible Study Group for a Pot Luck Dinner on Dec. 21 from 5 to 8 p.m., at 2002 Canterbury Lane in Wooster. Kindly confirm your attendance and the number in your party via email (bbloch@lotandblocksolutions.com) or by phone (201-207-5143), leaving your return phone number and a message if there is no answer.

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry This Week...

Sunday 12/18	Sunday School	9:30 am
	Sunday Worship	10:30 am
	Fellowship Dinner	11:30 am
Monday 12/19	Bible Study	9:30 am
	Trustees	6:30 pm
Wednesday 12/21	Bible Study Pot Luck	5:00 pm

Looking Ahead...

Saturday 12/24	Christmas Eve Service	7:00 pm
Sunday 12/25	Sunday Worship	10:30 am

The Church Office will be closed from Dec. 26-31, but Pastor John will always be available by phone (330-988-2577) or e-mail (pastor@oakchapel.com).



Financial News:

Tithes and Offerings needed each Sunday for budgeted expenses (November 2022): \$2,227

Received last month:

11/06.....	\$1,711
11/13.....	\$1,804
11/20.....	\$2,023
11/27.....	\$2,314

As of 11/30/2022, we received about 88% of our budgeted income for the month of November and 89% YTD. We are slightly ahead of last year at this time, which was 84% and 86%, respectively. The Food Pantry is in the black. We're still making a difference. Thank you Oak Chapel!

Oak Chapel United Methodist Church

December 18, 2022



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John Finn, *Pastor*

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

Today's Message...

"Stocking Stuffers"