

December 24, 2023

Bringing Forth the Light

Prelude Jen Moser, Organist

Welcome and Announcements Pastor John

Opening Prayer Pastor John

*Responsive Reading (From Psalm 98) Miriam Zech

One: Sing to the Lord a new song,

All: For He has done marvelous things!

One: The Lord has made his salvation known,

All: And revealed his righteousness to the nations!

One: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth;

All: Burst into jubilant song with music.

One: Make music to the Lord with the harp,

All: With the harp and the sound of singing.

One: With trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn,

All: Shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

*Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 234

*Prayer of Affirmation Miriam Zech

Lord Jesus, we bow down before you, giving thanks for your light, your grace, your mercy, and your love. Be with us as we reflect on our relationship with you, and guide us as we seek to establish relationships with others while also reconciling with those with whom we have become estranged. In your Magnificent Name, we pray, Amen!

Lighting the Advent Candle of Love Joyce and Gene Varns

Prayer of Illumination Pastor John

Almighty God, we once again mark the beginning of the story — the birth of your Son, who came into this world as an atonement for our sins. May we once again be cleansed and purified, and may the burden of our sins be lifted by your saving grace, your generous compassion, and your unconditional love, always and forever. Amen!

Call to Confession Pastor John

Prayer of Confession Pastor John

Heavenly Father, as we prepare to celebrate the gift of the Messiah, we also rejoice in our own rebirth, made possible only through the death and resurrection of your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who took on the sins of the entire world and provided a pathway to salvation for all who would see and believe. For this incomparable gift, we lift up your name in praise and thanksgiving, Amen!

Prayer of Preparation for God's Holy Word Pastor John

Star-Studded Scripture: Pastor John and Miriam Zech

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 "Away in a Manger" No. 217

Choral Anthem "Jesus Messiah"

Message "Star Search" Pastor John

Our Morning Prayer Pastor John

The Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Our Gifts to God Pastor John

*Doxology No. 95

*Hymn: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" No. 240

Benediction Pastor John

Postlude Jen Moser

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

Help Wanted

Seeking Clerical Assistant

Oak Chapel is seeking a clerical assistant to help with a variety of administrative responsibilities. Qualified candidates should have a working knowledge of such computer programs as Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint as well as Servant Keeper and Vital Signs. The position will consist of six hours per week over a two-day period (usually Tuesdays and Wednesdays).

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, collecting, reviewing, and distributing the mail; checking voicemail messages and responding as appropriate; checking e-mail and responding as needed; initiating or assisting with correspondence, particularly in acknowledging memorial gifts and other donations; distributing prayer requests and other announcements to church families and friends; ordering supplies as necessary; sending e-mail reminders regarding upcoming meetings and events; updating the electronic sign on a weekly basis; recording small-group attendance; assisting the pastor with composition and printing of the bulletin; composing and producing the monthly newsletter; charting weekly offerings; maintaining and updating the archives and the church calendar. Interested applicants should submit a resume detailing one's experience as well as a cover letter explaining one's interest in and vision for the position to the church office by Jan. 5, 2024



A special "Thank You" to everyone who helped plan, set up, and perform at our Hymn Sing last Sunday! It was a terrific success and a true blessing to all who attended!



Lord Jesus, we once again celebrate your birth and your everlasting presence with us. You have not only saved us, but you have also enriched and empowered us to do your will and spread the Good News to others. Hear our voices as we lift up the following praises and prayers before you...

Praises

- *For Oak Chapel's Hymn Sing last Sunday
- *For Oak Chapel's Advent Bible Study
- *For future Bible Studies planned for the new year
- *For Oak Chapel's wonderfully generous congregation

Prayers

- *For Sandy Treece as she prepares for treatments
- *For Wendy Rife following the passing of her father
- *For Randy and Pixie during their time of loss
- *For Andy and Claudia, who are dealing with health issues
- *For Brandon, who is recovering from injuries
- *For Keri Merickle's husband, Jeff, who has health concerns
- *For the family of Karen, who passed last week
- *For traveling mercies for the Scot basketball team
- *For hope where there is distress and despair
- *For peace where there is brutality and bloodshed
- *For joy where there is sadness and sorrow
- *For love where there is hostility and hatred

Upcoming Worship Services

Dec. 31.....The Final Countdown

Jan. 7.....Brand New Me

Jan. 14.....It Is What It Is

Jan. 21.....All God's People

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry This Week...

Monday 12/25	Christmas Day	
Wednesday 12/27	Choir	7:30 p.m.

Looking Ahead...

Sunday 12/31	Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
	Sunday Worship	10:30 a.m.
Monday 1/1	New Year's Day	
Tuesday, 1/2	Retirees Breakfast	8:30 a.m.
Wednesday 1/3	Choir	7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events...

Sunday 1/7	Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
	Sunday Worship	10:30 a.m.
Monday 1/8	Genesis Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Tuesday 1/9	Evangelism Team	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday 1/10	Choir	7:30 p.m.

The Church Office will be closed from Dec. 25-Jan.. 1, but Pastor John will always be available by phone (330-988-2577) or e-mail (pastor@oakchapel.com).



A Plea for the Pantry

Since establishing our pantry in 2019, we have had the opportunity to provide basic food items for hundreds of people in and around our community. I have had the privilege of speaking with a number of those who have come in search of food, and I can tell you that they are overflowing with gratitude. In the last several months, however, our food and financial donations in support of the pantry have fallen off, so as you plan your year-end giving, perhaps you might consider a donation to the pantry so that we can continue to answer Christ's call to "Feed the Hungry." Many Thanks! - Pastor John

Oak Chapel United Methodist Church

December 24, 2023



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John Finn, *Pastor*

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

Today's Message...
"Star Search"