

December 31, 2023

Bringing Forth the Light

Prelude Mark Ritchey

Welcome and Announcements Pastor John

Opening Prayer Pastor John

*The Apostles Creed Miriam Zech

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. On the third day, He rose from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Hymn "O Worship the King" No. 73

*Prayer of Assurance Miriam Zech

Great and Glorious God, we look forward to a new year with both anticipation and trepidation. We know not what lies ahead, but we do know that you will be with us to guide, protect, inspire, and assure us. Give us the wisdom and the courage to do what is right and to serve you by serving others with loyalty and dedication in the year ahead. This we pray with great reverence and thanksgiving. Amen!

Call to Confession Pastor John

Prayer of Confession Pastor John

Almighty God, it is with deep regret and considerable sadness that we confess our sins before you, but thanks to the gift of your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we have been provided with yet another chance for renewal and restoration.

Therefore, we take this opportunity to confess our sins with humble contrition, asking that you shield us from temptation and protect us from evil. In your Faithful and Forgiving Name, we pray. Amen!

Prayer of Preparation Pastor John

1st Scripture Lamentations 3:22-24 Pastor John

2nd Scripture Romans 12:2 Miriam Zech

3rd Scripture Ephesians 4:21-24 Miriam Zech

4th Scripture Galatians 2:20 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 "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" No. 382

Choral Anthem Choir

Message "Oh, Really?" Pastor John

Our Morning Prayer Pastor John

The Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Our Gifts Pastor John

*Doxology No. 95

*Hymn "Since Jesus Came into My Heart" See Insert

Benediction Pastor John

Postlude Mark Ritchey

*=An Invitation to Stand in Body or Spirit

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Looking Ahead with Faith and Confidence

The year was 1999, and we were headed into uncharted territory. On the horizon was 2000, a.k.a. "Y2K," and it was filled with uncertainty and angst. Not only would checks need to be printed without the number 19 on the dateline, but there would also be widespread rumors that computers would crash, energy systems would fail, navigation systems would collapse, and bank accounts would be wiped out because of their inability to recognize the year 2000.

As we know, none of that happened, and we all joined in a collective sigh of relief. It's hard to believe that a quarter century has passed since then, but here we sit, much older, but not all that much wiser.

There is, however, one lesson we can learn from that experience when we transitioned from 1999 to 2000: there is no sense worrying about what is to come. We are very adept at fretting about the future, but we have learned through experience and through Scripture, that we should not agonize over things we cannot control.

The Gospel of Matthew (6:27, 34) says this: "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself."

With that in mind, let us all move forward into the new year with faith and confidence as Lord guides and protects us on this leg of the journey.

Thought for the Day

*We exercise our Faith
when we walk with God*



Praises and Prayers

Merciful God, we ask you to be with us as we enter a new year. Guide us and protect us in the situations we encounter and the decisions we must make. We also take time to give you thanks for your many blessings, and we ask that you hear our praises and prayers as we lift them before you....

Praises

- *For those who baked cookies for the residents of Danbury
- *For the beauty of Oak Chapel Nativity scenes
- *For Claudia Kuntz, who made it home in time for Christmas
- *For safe travels for the Scot Basketball Team

Prayers

- *For the Family of Sandy Treece, who passed on Christmas
- *For Pastor Jim Pfander and his wife, Patti
- *For Wendy Rife, following the passing of her Father
- *For Wayne Spangler, who is at West View Healthy Living
- *For Heidi Arnold as she deals with cancer
- *For Keri Merickel’s husband Jeff, who has health concerns
- *For Sheri Finn’s brother, Tom, who suffered a fall
- *For Sheri Finn’s friend, Ruby, who was injured in a fall
- *For traveling mercies for Cameron Boyer

Upcoming Worship Services	
Jan. 7.....	A Journey through I John 1
Jan. 14.....	A Journey through I John 2
Jan. 21.....	A Journey through I John 3
Jan. 28.....	A Journey through I John 4

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry This Week...

Sunday 12/31	Sunday School Class	9:30 a.m.
	Sunday Worship	10:30 a.m.
Tuesday 1/2	Retirees’ Breakfast	2:00 p.m.
Wednesday 1/3	Choir Practice	7:30 p.m.
Saturday 1/6	UWF Unit Meeting	10:00 a.m.

Looking Ahead

Sunday 1/7	Sunday School Class	9:30 a.m.
	Sunday Worship	10:30 a.m.
Monday 1/8	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
	Art & Soul	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday 1/9	Days for Girls	2:00 p.m.
Wednesday 1/10	Choir Practice	7:30 p.m.



Financial News:

Tithes and Offerings needed each Sunday for budgeted expenses (Sep 2023): \$2,546

Received in September:

09/03.....	\$4,690.00
09/10.....	\$1,036.00
09/17.....	\$3,194.10
09/24.....	\$1,379.00

As of 09/30/2023, we received about 101% of our budgeted income for the month of September and 96% YTD. We are ahead of last year at this time, which was 77% and 83%, respectively. The Food Pantry is in the black. Donations: \$100; Purchases: \$0. We are making a difference. Thank you Oak Chapel!

Oak Chapel United Methodist Church

December 31, 2023



4203 West Old Lincoln Way
Wooster, Ohio
330-264-2537

www.oakchapelumc.com
John Finn, *Pastor*

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

Today’s Message...
“Oh, Really?”