

December 22, 2024

Bringing Forth the Light

Prelude Jen Moser

Welcome and Announcements Pastor John

Opening Prayer Pastor John

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy Shannan Jones/Lucas Mark

Responsive Proclamation (Psalm 88:1-2) Pastor John

Pastor: Lord, you are the God who saves us.

People: Day and night, we cry out to you.

Pastor: May our prayer come before you.

People: May You turn your ear to our cry.

*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, 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.

*Passing of the Peace Miriam Zech

*Hymn "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" No. 236

*Prayer of Assurance Miriam Zech

Precious Savior, you came into this world with humble modesty, but you departed in magnificent glory. Because of you, we have hope, peace, joy, and love. May your presence in our lives influence all that we say and do, and may we continue to obey your commandments and show reverence for your Sacred Word. In Your Great and Glorious Name, we pray. Amen!

Call to Confession Pastor John

Prayer of Confession Pastor John

Compassionate and Loving Lord, we stand before you to give an account of our failure to live by your precepts and honor your Word. We pray that you will have mercy on us and forgive us so that we may be cleansed and purified, and become a new being, sanctified by your sacrifice and saved by your unwavering compassion. This we pray with great sincerity and dedication to you, always and forever. Amen!

Prayer of Preparation Pastor John

Scripture 1 Acts 9:1-2 Pastor John

Scripture 2 Acts 9:3-6 Miriam Zech

Scripture 3 Acts 9:7-9 Pastor John

Scripture 4 Acts 9:10-12 Miriam Zech

Scripture 5 Acts 9:13-16 Pastor John

Scripture 6 Acts 17-20 Miriam Zech

Scripture 7 Acts 21-23 Pastor John

Response

One: Let us rejoice in God's Holy Word

All: For His Word brings us Light, Hope and Joy

*Gloria Patri

*Hymn "Love Came Down at Christmas" No. 242

Chancel Choir "Jesus, Messiah"

Message "An alternate Road to Damascus" Pastor John

Our Morning Prayer Pastor John

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

Presentation of Our Gifts

*The Doxology

*Prayer Over Our Offerings Pastor John

*Hymn "Joy to the World" No. 246

Benediction Pastor John

Postlude Jen Moser

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

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Colors of Christmas

♥ December 24: Christmas Eve—7:00 — White

♥ December 25: Happy Birthday Jesus

♥ December 29: Gold

Glass Candy

The supply of candy in the Narthex is the last of the season. Pick up a hostess gift while you can.

Celebrate Christmas Eve With Us

Oak Chapel will celebrate Christmas Eve with its annual worship service on Tuesday, December 24, at 7 p.m. Make plans to join us, and consider inviting a friend, neighbor, or family member as we welcome the Christ child once again into our church and into our hearts.

Check Out Our Chrismon Tree

Don't let the Christmas season pass without checking out our Chrismon Tree. The Chrismon Tree, which came to North America in 1957, is adorned with ancient symbols for Christ or some part of His ministry, including the Descending Dove, the Celtic Cross, the Shepherd's Crook, the Sacred Chalice, and more than 40 other symbols. These unique ornaments help us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

Grief Share

Those who have experienced the death of a family member or friend are invited to attend the GriefShare program held at Shreve Community Church (430 North Main Street, Shreve, Ohio). Sessions will be held on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m., beginning on January 11 and continuing through April 11. More information is available by phone (330-567-2051, ext. 117) or e-mail (griefshareshreve@gmail.com). The cost is \$20 to cover the book.



Praises and Prayers

Precious Savior, as we prepare to celebrate the anniversary of your arrival into this world, we rejoice in the promise of salvation that you have provided. We take time on this day to lift up the following praises and prayers before you....

Praises

- *For God’s presence in our church and our world
- *For the compassion of our caregivers
- *For our warm and welcoming church
- *For Elizabeth Feldman’s successful procedure
- *For Pastor John’s successful procedure
- *For Dave Zech’s successful procedure
- *For Caroline Lilburn as she continues her rehabilitation
- *For Jennifer Adair as she continues to recover
- *For Greg Cantrell’s years of service in vet medicine
- *For safe travels for the Zech Family during their trip
- *For Cyndi Boyer’s sister, who was married December 7

Prayers

- *For Gene Varns as he deals with vision issues
- *For Bill Braucher for an upcoming procedure
- *For Don Klise’s brother, who is dealing with dementia
- *For Shannan Mark as she recovers from an illness
- *For Gene and Joyce Varns as they travel to Hawaii
- *For Stuart and Cindy Mykrantz as they travel to Florida
- *For the family of Peggy Arthur, who passed last week

Thought for the Day

When life isn’t a bed of roses,
Remember who wore the thorns

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry This Week...

Sunday 12/22	Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
	Worship	10:30 a.m.
Monday 12/23	Prayer Shawl Ministry	6:00 p.m.
	Girl Scouts	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday 12/24	Worship	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 12/25	<i>Happy Birthday Jesus!</i>	

Looking Ahead

Sunday 12/29	Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
	Worship	10:30 a.m.
Monday 12/30	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Tuesday 12/31	Girl Scout Overnight	
Wednesday 1/1	Welcome 2025!	

Upcoming Worship Services

December 24.....	A Sky full of Stars
December 29.....	Is This Real or Artificial
January 5	A Quiet Voice
January 12.....	Bridge Builders
January 19.....	Staying Grounded

You are never too lost to be found by God.

Last Week’s Attendance: 41 in person..... 17 online
Last Week’s Offering: \$3339.08

Blue Christmas Services

Two area churches will host Blue Christmas services next week. Church of the Cross (5100 Cleveland Road) will hold its service on Sunday, December 22, at 2 p.m. Shreve Community Church (430 North Main Street, Shreve, Ohio) will host its annual service on Monday, December 23, at 6:30 p.m. Both services provide a time of reflection that enables those who have lost loved ones to rest in the presence of God and feel his comforting hand in the midst of struggle and grief.

**Oak Chapel
United Methodist Church**



December 22, 2024

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Wooster, Ohio
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John Finn, *Pastor*

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

Today’s Message

“An Alternate Road to Damascus”

Fourth Sunday of Advent