

December 29, 2024

Bringing Forth the Light

Prelude Jen Moser

Welcome and Announcements Miriam Zech

Opening Prayer Miriam Zech

Responsive Proclamation (From Psalm 104:33-34) Miriam Zech

Pastor: We will sing to the Lord all of our life;

People: We will sing praise to our God as long as we live.

Pastor: May our meditation be pleasing to him,

People: As we rejoice in the Lord our God.

*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 "Blessed Be the God of Israel" No. 209

*Prayer of Assurance Miriam Zech

God of the Universe, your splendor and majesty touches our heart and inspires our soul. As we look forward to a new year, we take time, first and foremost, to recommit our lives to you and to ensure that none of your precious children are overlooked or underserved. We pray that you will guide us in this pursuit, today and always. Amen!

Call to Confession Pastor Bohley

Prayer of Confession Pastor Bohley

Compassionate and Loving Lord, we have all been stained by our failure to honor your Word and obey your Commandments, yet you continue to forgive us through your precious blood, which was shed on the cross at Calvary to atone for our sins and purify our souls. For your clemency and your benevolence, we offer our deepest and most sincere thanks and praise, always and forever. Amen!

Prayer of Preparation Pastor Bohley

Scripture Matthew 9:14-17 Pastor Bohley

Response

One: Let us rejoice in God's Holy Word

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

*Gloria Patri

*Hymn "What Child is This?" No. 219

Chancel Choir "A Christmas Medley"

Message "Making Room for the New Year" Pastor Bohley

Our Morning Prayer Miriam Zech

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

Presentation of Our Gifts Miriam Zech

*The Doxology

*Prayer Over Our Offerings Miriam Zech

*Hymn "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" No. 203

Benediction Pastor Bohley

Postlude "Victory in Jesus" Jen Moser

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

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Welcome Pastor Bohley

We are honored and blessed to welcome Pastor Keith Bohley back to Oak Chapel this morning! Pastor Bohley served Oak Chapel from 1987-1996 — a period of rapid growth and great spiritual vitality. He touched the lives of many members of Oak Chapel, including Pastor John, whose pathway to ministry was greatly influenced by Pastor Bohley.

Take Out Meal—Ham Loaf

United Women of Faith will offer a take-out ham loaf meal on January 12. Each meal will include a generous slice of ham loaf, green beans, and scalloped au gratin potatoes. Each meal will be \$12 and must be pre-ordered, but you may pay at pick-up after worship.

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 (griefshare@shreve.com). The cost is \$20 to cover the book.

Glass Candy

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

"Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand." — Dr. Seuss



Praises and Prayers

Lord God Almighty, as we approach another new year, we give you thanks for your many blessings during the past 12 months while asking you to be with us as our journey continues into 2025. This morning, we pause once again 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 the visitation ministry of our church
- *For our inspiring and uplifting Hymn Sing on Dec. 15
- *For Jennifer Adair as she continues to recover
- *For Caroline Lilburn as she continues to recover
- *For the new feline addition to the Zech Family

Prayers

- *For Gene Varns as he deals with vision issues
- *For Bill Braucher for an upcoming procedure
- *For Alice Giffin during her travels to and from D.C.
- *For Bob Troutman, who has been under the weather
- *For Dick and Carol Gasser, who have health issues
- *For Lori Hauser, who has been hospitalized after a fall
- *For Connie Shallenberger, recovering from surgery
- *For Lucas’s friend, whose grandmother passed away
- *For the victims of the mobile home fires in Shreve
- *For travel mercies for the Varns and the Scot BB Team
- *For the Mykrantz’s and Gossage’s during their time away

*Thought for the Day
When you think about it,
Jesus is the reason for every season.*

Opportunities for Worship and Ministry This Week...

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

Looking Ahead

Sunday 1/5	Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
	Worship	10:30 a.m.
Monday 1/6	Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
	Art and Soul	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday 1/7	Retirees’ Breakfast	8:30 a.m.
	Girl Scouts	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday 1/8	Acorn Society	11:30 a.m.
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 a.m.

Last Week’s Attendance:..... 43 in person..... 20 online
Last Week’s Offering:.....\$3156

Acorn Society is a group of women who enjoy going out to lunch once a month. On January 9, we will go to the Pine Tree Barn. It is important for us to know who is coming. Please mark the attendance sheet or tell Phyllis or Elizabeth this morning.

United Women in Faith invites you to a **Senior Social** on January 21, from 1:00—3:00 at Oak Chapel. The Community is invited. There will be snacks, puzzles and games. We intend to offer this once a month for casual fellowship. The program may vary according to wishes of those attending.

Upcoming Worship Services

January 5	Would You Believe?
January 12	A Quiet Voice
January 19	Sick and Tired
January 26	Staying Grounded

Oak Chapel United Methodist Church



December 29, 2024

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 John Finn, *Pastor*

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

Today’s Message

“Making Room for the New Year”

Guest Pastor, Keith Bohley