

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

† **Sunday, December 12, 2021** †

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUST BREATHE: (One minute of centering) Prayer by Cristine Sine
One: God of New Beginnings, in this time between the times of Now but Not Yet, between Conception and Completion, of Promises Half Formed and Dreams Still Emerging, help us to let go of all that holds us bound. Enable us to see clearly the Light that beckons us forward towards your Love. Give us Wisdom and Patience for the journey into the new life you are creating for us and all creation. Amen.

THE PRELUDE *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Arr. Larry Shackley

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rich Shisler

One: God comes! So don't let go of all the reasons to rejoice!

Many: We will sing a song of Advent to the One who fills our lives with joy!

One: God comes! So don't stop lifting your prayers with thanksgiving!

Many: We will sing a song of Advent to the One who hears our words and feels our silence.

One: God comes! So don't stop giving your heart to God!

Many: We will sing a song of Advent to the One who graces us with a peace we cannot begin to understand.

*HYMN #126 New Century Hymnal *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

WE LIGHT OUR THIRD ADVENT CANDLE—JOY

One: On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of hope. Last week, we lit the candle of peace. Today, we light the rose-colored candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of joy. Historically, this particular Sunday has been called Gaudete (Gaw-deh) Sunday, which is a Latin word which means "rejoice." The candle is rose-colored because it is meant to remind us of the joy Mary felt when she was told that she had been chosen to bear the Christ-child. According to Luke's gospel, when Mary met her cousin Elizabeth, who was also pregnant with John the Baptist, the child in Elizabeth's womb jumped for joy. Then Mary said, "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior!"

May Mary's joy remind us that we were created for joy! Whenever we open our hearts to God's love, joy is born! It is the fulfillment of Jesus' birth, and it is the fulfillment of the Christmas promise in us. Let us pray together...

Many: Loving God, we open ourselves to your love, trusting that this is how you made us, that you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope, teach us the peace that comes from seeking true justice, and fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared with the world. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen!

HYMN #129 New Century Hymnal *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERING DEDICATION *In the Bleak Midwinter* Mark Hayes

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

Joys and Concerns

Today's "Arms of Love" are wrapped around *Marjorie Mortimer*

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Our Lord

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen!

ANTHEM *Were You There on That Christmas Night?* Natalie Sleeth

THE WITNESS OF HOLY SCRIPTURE - Rich Shisler

Luke 3:7-18

7 Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? 8 Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. 9 The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire."

10 The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

WELCOME

We joyfully welcome all visitors!
Please join us again!

We are very glad You chose to Worship with Pilgrim United Church of Christ!

- ◇ Brynn testing for possible cancer.
- ◇ Kelly Gerstenberger recovery from surgery.
- ◇ Those dealing with and healing from COVID
Thank you to everyone for wearing masks and social distancing!
- ◇ Healing for everyone dealing with medical issues.
- ◇ All who are struggling to get through this holiday season.
- ◇ Those who... have left the church, are enemies of the church, and have not found a church. The poor and the hungry.
- ◇ The safe return of the Missionaries from Wayne county.
- ◇ Everyone to "Love their neighbors as they love themselves."

Prayers & Praises

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you ... to everyone who ... have continued to send-in contributions!

Contributions Received:

\$ 3,691.00	October 3, 2021	\$ 2,036.00	November 7, 2021
\$ 2,261.00	October 10, 2021	\$ 5,450.00+	November 14, 2021
\$ 4,525.00+	October 17, 2021	\$ 5,159.50+	November 21, 2021
\$ 8,042.50+	October 24, 2021	\$	November 28, 2021
\$ 2,271.00	October 31, 2021		
\$20,790.50+	October Totals	\$12,645.50	November Totals

+Ameriprise-Reserve Income (Asset Movement) \$4,000.00 + \$5,000.00 + 2,500.00
+3,000.00 = \$14,500.00

- ***ACME Community Cash Back*** receipts are being collected. See the box across from the restrooms in the education wing.
- ***Handbell Rehearsals*** are Monday's at 4:30 p.m. in the Music Room. All are welcome to join in the ringing.
- ***The Mitten Tree*** is located outside the church office ready for gloves, mittens, etc.



CALENDAR

Sunday, December 12, 2021: Third Sunday in Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Rev. Glen Shedlock, Sanctuary

11:45 a.m. Bible Study, Rev. Glen Shedlock, Heritage Room

Monday, December 13, 2021:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin Lessons, Children's Library

4:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Music Room

Tuesday, December 14, 2021:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

2:30 - 6:45 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin Lessons, Children's Library

8:00 p.m. Broad Highway group, Heritage Room

Wednesday, December 15, 2021:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Legacy Barbershop Quartet Rehearsal, Heritage Room

3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin Lessons, Children's Library

4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Cello Lessons, Adult Library

Thursday, December 16, 2021:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

6:00—8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Christmas Party, Social Hall

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Moonlight Serenader's Rehearsal, Music Room

7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Adult Library

Friday, December 17, 2021:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

Saturday, December 18, 2021:

12:00—3:00 p.m. Akron Multi-District AA, Adult Library

6:00 - 10:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

Sunday, December 19, 2021: Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Rev. Glen A. Shedlock, Sanctuary

11:45 a.m. Bible Study, Rev. Glen Shedlock, Heritage Room

Monday, December 20, 2021:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School Christmas Break thru 12/31

3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin Lessons, Children's Library

4:30 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Music Room