

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

We Prepare Ourselves to Receive the Gift *(unison)*

O Lord, we have come into Your house to learn about the living of life. Teach us how to let Your light shine into our world. Teach us how to become instruments of light and love and forgiveness. In our following of Your example, may we learn to love our neighbors as ourselves, to reach out and feed the hungry, heal the sick and visit the lonely. As we reach out with Your great love, may we learn to bring hope to the despairing. If only it were easy to do. But, You are the God of the impossible. As we gather on this threshold of Advent, we thank you for the opportunity to begin our lives all over again. Help us to let go of yesterday and to look forward to a new day. May we receive Your forgiveness and live life in a new way.

(Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Words of Institution

We Receive God's Gift

Partaking of the bread - *the body of Christ*

Partaking of the cup - *the blood of Christ*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessing of the Children

We believe that the blessings of God are extended to children as well. To express this belief, children are invited to come forward, into the chancel, for laying on of hands and blessing.

Mission Statement:

*God calls us to live our faith as disciples
Sharing the love of God revealed through Christ
In the community and the world.*

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Staff

Pastor, Rev. Kirk W. Bruce:

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Acolyte: *Thank You!*

Altar Flowers: *No Flowers - Communion
Sunday*

Greeters: *Everyone present today!*

Ushers: *Thank You!*

PowerPoint: *Cheryl Bruce*

Liturgist: *Kelly Gerstenberger*

Fellowship: *Thank You!*

Steeple Lighting: *Anonymous*

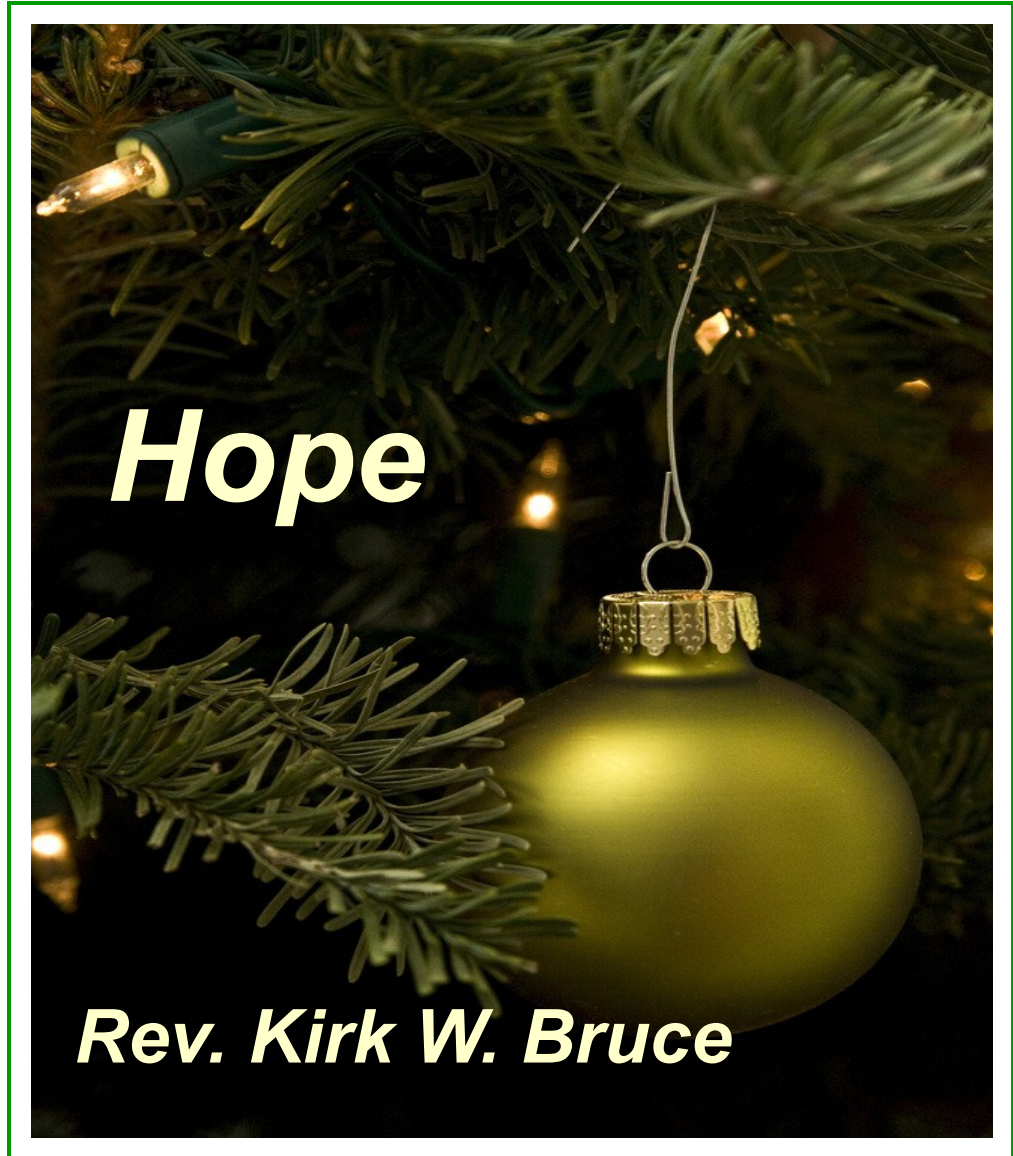
Pilgrim United Church of Christ

A Caring Church for Thinking People

130 Broad Blvd † Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 † 330.928.4847



Sunday, December 2, 2018



**Pilgrim United Church of Christ
A Caring Church for Thinking People**

Sunday, December 2, 2018 † First Sunday of Advent - Hope

THE PRELUDE *Amahl and the Night Visitors - Overture* Gian Carlo Menotti

*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* No. 110

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 25)

One: O Lord, we gather this day to lift up our souls to You.

All: Show us Your ways and teach us Your paths to live.

One: Guide us in Your truths of living.

All: For in You we find a hope for the living of our days.

*THE INVOCATION, OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison) Kelly Gerstenberger

We sing our song of invitation, seeking You in our lives O Lord, for we have found that we need You. We need Your love, Your guidance, Your forgiveness, and Your hope. We need You and ask You to come into our days and nights, come into our presence to teach us and love us. Come O Lord, as we pray together the prayer Your son taught us, "Our Father . . ." [debt, debtors]

*THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (Red Hymnal) *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Refrain) No. 116

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD AND EACH OTHER

*GREETING EACH OTHER IN CHRIST

OUR LIFE TOGETHER Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - Hope Dawn Criss

THE CRADLE SONG *One Candle Is Lit* (Verse 1) Parrott/Kirkpatrick

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night, our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light. Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage. One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

CHILDREN'S SERMON Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

FAITH FOCUS Nancy Anderson

ANTHEM *Where is the Child?* John Ness Beck

***all who are able may stand**

WE GIVE TO GOD

AN OFFERTORY INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY *Lullaby* John Ness Beck

*THE DOXOLOGY (Red Hymnal) *In the Bleak Midwinter* (Verse 4) No. 128

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CALL TO PRAYER

(Black Hymnal) *Away In A Manger* (Verse 3) No. 124

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

THE MORNING PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *Angels from the Realms of Glory* No. 117

GOD GIVES TO US

SCRIPTURES Jeremiah 33:14 - 16 (page 696) Kelly Gerstenberger
Luke 21:25 - 36 (page 74)

SERMON *Hope* Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (Back of Bulletin & Power Point)

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH SERVICE

*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *Come though Long Expected Jesus* No. 103

*THE BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *(We invite you to join hands as we sing)*
(Black Hymnal) *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (Refrain) No. 154

***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

POSTLUDE *Passacaglia* Andre Raison

SIGN-IN

There are worship pads on each pew in the sanctuary.
We joyfully welcome all visitors! Please join us again!
Please sign in to let us know you are worshipping with us today.
We are so glad You are Worshiping with Pilgrim United Church of Christ!

Pray for:

Laurie that her chemo will not be needed after her December treatment.
Healing for Marilyn and Mary Anne.
Gerry & wife Ann, suffering with cancer.
For the health of all as the flu season approaches and winter comes near.
Remember those in need, especially the elderly and the very young, and need help.
Healing prayers for a church members daughter.
Healing prayers for my grand-daughter.
Anita, a two year old, in Akron Children's Hospital for continued healing to burns on her hands & arms requiring multiple skin grafts.
A toddler who had a liver transplant & all the members who need healing physically, mentally, etc.
Diane, Kenneth's sister, that she gets better soon.
Jeff in the hospital with many medical problems.
Everyone effected by the hurricanes that have damaged property and lives.
The children separated from their parents at our border.
Our countries politicians and legal leaders to make the fair, unconditional decisions for all people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACME CASH BACK program continues through December 29th! **Save your receipts!**
Supports the Pilgrim Mission Trip Fund.  **Place in the box in the Social Hall!**

December 5, 2018 - Advent Dinner at 6 pm - With dinner, crafts & tree decorating

December 9, 2018 - 2nd Sunday in Advent (Peace) - Toys Around the Manger & Children's Pageant

December 16, 2018 - 3rd Sunday in Advent (Joy) - Cantata & Wassail

December 23, 2018 - 4th Sunday in Advent (Love) - Baptism of grandchild of Glen & Gail Tepper

December 24, 2018 - Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm

The mitten tree is looking for winter hats, gloves & scarves for Good Neighbors!

December Mission Challenge ~ Advent Avalanche of Food!

Every time you enter Pilgrim during December, bring **ONE** canned or non-perishable food item to the Good Neighbors box located by the parking lot entrance. When the box is full, the items will be stacked on the Social Hall stage.

Our hope is to have the stage full of canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, tuna, peanut butter, laundry soap, diapers, toilet paper, you get the idea.

All of the items received will be taken to Cuyahoga Falls Good Neighbors in early January when the Good Neighbors cupboards are typically bare.

Only food items and Christmas gifts for all ages will be accepted until January 2019.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 2, 2018 - First Sunday in Advent - Hope

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Kyle Kelvington, Heritage Room

10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk W. Bruce, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour, Social Hall

11:45 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal - Kyle Kelvington, Heritage Room

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Girl Scout Daisy Troop, Adult Library

Monday, December 3, 2018

1:00 - 1:30 p.m. Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Tae Kwon Do, Social Hall

6:30 p.m. Diaconate Board meeting, Adult Library

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

8:00 p.m. Broad Highway Group AA, Heritage Room

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Office

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Dance, Social Hall

2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin Lessons, Adult & Children's Libraries

6:00 p.m. Advent Dinner followed by crafts & tree decorating, Social Hall

Thursday, December 6, 2018

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack #3186 Den meetings, Adult & Children's Libraries, Nursery, Classroom #27 & A.T.T.I.C.

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

Friday, December 7, 2018

7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Project Panda, Social Hall, Kitchen, Heritage Room. Adult & Children's Libraries, Nursery, A.T.T.I.C.

Saturday, December 8, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Free Community Lunch (FCL), Kitchen & Social Hall

8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

Sunday, December 9, 2018 - Second Sunday in Advent - Peace

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Kyle Kelvington, Heritage Room

10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Toys Around the Manger & Children's Pageant, Rev. Kirk W. Bruce, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour, Social Hall

11:45 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal - Kyle Kelvington, Heritage Room

11:45 a.m. Stewardship Board meeting, Rev. Greene Room

2:45 - 5:15 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #501, Adult Library

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #169, Adult Library

Monday, December 10, 2018

6:30 p.m. Trustees Board Meeting, Adult Library

Advent One: Hope

Jeremiah 33:14-16 NRSV

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Jeremiah:

Jeremiah is the son of a priest who resided in the land of Benjamin, just north of Jerusalem. Jeremiah was active from the thirteenth year of Josiah, king of Judah (626 BC), until after the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of Solomon's Temple in 587 BC. His story is one of pain as he is deeply affected by what he sees and knows. The good days are numbered. National demise is on the horizon.

He is called into his ministry quite unexpectedly. A voice speaks to him from somewhere. (Read the first verses of Jeremiah). He is hesitant. He offers excuses- "I am too young. . . I don't know what to say. . . I don't know where to go." But Yahweh reaches out and touches his lips, and Jeremiah is ready to speak.

"With only the words that are put into his mouth by Yahweh, Jeremiah will be appointed over nations and kingdoms, he will dig up and pull down nations. Four verbs describe his mission; he will destroy, demolish, build and plant. All this he will do with words—dynamic, vital, life-changing words." *

He rages against evils that are all too familiar—oppression, violence, destruction, abuse of power, neglect of the needy in the community, worship of idols and injustice.

"**Hopefully**, his words will dig up, pull down, destroy and demolish what is ungodly among us. **Hopefully**, his words can be used to build and plant the faithful world that God intended for us. . . God makes no promise that the work will be easy or even safe. 'I am with you and will rescue you' (1:19)." *

*CEB Storytellers Bible, pg 971, 2017, Nashville

Activity:

In Chapter 18 of Jeremiah, God sends him to the potter's house. He observes the potter as he reworks each pot until it seems good to him. The word of God comes to Jeremiah in this imagery—Israel is the clay. God is the potter. God molds us and makes us into a people of faith, but we must be ready and yielding to God's call.

Take this piece of clay. Warm it with your hands. Mold it and shape it into your desired creation. Place it somewhere in your home to remind you during this advent season of the hope we have in God. Hope that will "build and plant the faithful world that God intended for us." Use it as a reminder that God is molding and shaping you to be a part of making that world a reality.

