



DECEMBER 3, 2023 10:30 A.M.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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**(Optional) Tune to 96.1 FM for the service**

The service can also be listened to on any radio on church property.  
For those that wish to stay in your cars for the service, you can listen to the station listed above.

PRELUDE

INTROIT *Emmanuel* No. 134

CARRYING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD

GATHERING HYMN\* *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* No. 123

GREETINGS, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Welcome to Beaver UCC!*

*If you are new or would like more information, please fill out a welcome card, located in the holder on the back of each pew, and place it in the offering plate.*

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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\*All who are comfortable, please stand.

**BEAVER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Organized 1809      www.beaverucc.org      937-426-5602  
1960 Dayton-Xenia Road, Beaver Creek, Ohio 45434

Rev. Brian Eastman, Pastor

Pastor's Phone: 937-469-1383      pastorbrian@beaverucc.org

Office Hours: Tues. 1-6 p.m.

Wed 10 a.m. -12 p.m. & 5-7 p.m.

Thu 10 a.m. -12 p.m.

Other times available by appointment

Choir Director: Karen Barger      Organist: Alex Ignatiou

Children's Sunday School Teachers:

Brittany King, Sarah Hogan, Hayden Rauls

- Handicapped restrooms are on the main and lower levels.
- Hearing assistance devices are available on the blue table near the altar by the back entrance.
- Children's Sunday School is available year-round during the service for children who are toddler age through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Children depart to go to Sunday School after the Children's Moment.

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Lay Reader: Tom Rauls

Fellowship Meal: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Carry-In

Today's altar flowers are donated by Melissa & Brian Baumbarger, in honor of Donovan Duncan's 1st birthday.

- Please consider donating new non-perishable food items to our outdoor food pantry or the collection box in the comfort room.
- All are invited to enjoy lunch and conversation in the downstairs Fellowship room following the service. Donations of snacks are always welcome. Lunch is provided by volunteers with the help of your donations. The first Sunday of the month is always a church potluck.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry: If you know of someone who would appreciate a prayer shawl, please talk to Pastor Brian.
- Card Ministry: Please sign the cards on the table at the front of the sanctuary. Let Shirley or Gretchen know about those with physical or emotional needs who would appreciate a card. Your prayers for these people are much appreciated.
- Covid Safety: A reminder that Covid numbers are up, and so please stay safe with precautions. Some in the church may for instance not feel comfortable holding hands or sharing lunch, and we ask that this be respected. Booster vaccines are also now available if you are eligible and choose to do so.

† Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession provided by the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways publication.

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
 Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-8  
 Fellowship Meal: First Sunday Carry-In  
 Lay Reader: Shirley Nelson

CALL TO WORSHIP†

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of God!"

**People:** **Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Leader: We are built to be a community that is bound firmly together.

**All:** **We give thanks to you, O God, for you are worthy to be praised!**

INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION†

**All:** **Forgiving God, we confess to You that there are times when we would rather stay asleep in sin instead of awakening to live in your light. We confess that we do not trust that your armor of light is sufficient for us, and hide in the shadows of greed and quarreling. Give us courage, O God, to trust in your ways, in your peace, and in your good. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS†

Leader: The good news of Advent is Christ's love and forgiveness of sin. Thanks be to Christ who sets us free to love and to serve.

**All:** **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

TIME OF PRAYER (You may remain seated)

Call to Prayer Hymn	<i>A Nativity Prayer</i>	No. 126
Joys and Concerns		
<b>All: Dear Lord, hear our prayers.</b>		
Silent Prayer		
Lord's Prayer (debts, debtors)		
Choral Response	<i>Spirit Divine, Hear Our Prayer</i>	No. 615

OFFERING OF GIFTS & SELVES TO GOD

Offertory

**Presentation of Gifts\***

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures here below;***

***Praise God for all that love has done;***

***Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen***

Prayer of Blessing

ANTHEM *Holy Is His Name*

LESSONS Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 OT pg. 648  
Mark 13:24-37 NT pg. 68

SERMON "Cry"

COMMUNION

PARTING SONG\* *Lord of Life*

**Lord of Life, Lord of Love, walk forever beside us.**

**Day by day show the way, be Thou our vision to guide us.**

**Striving to follow Thy noble plan, nothing can divide us. Lord**

**of Life, Lord of Love, walk forever beside us.**

BENEDICTION, POSTLUDE, & CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE  
WORLD

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**December Meetings:**

**None**

Today; **Hanging the Greens, 12:15 pm**

We will meet after church today and decorate the church for Christmas. This will, of course, involve putting the tree up, and any other decorations that we have, or people bring. Please stay to help; many hands make quick work.

Wed. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>; **Book Study, 7:00 pm**

Our book study will continue on Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7PM on Zoom, and end on Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup>. The book we are reading is Addicted to Hurry: Spiritual Strategies for Slowing Down by Kirk Byron Jones. We meet online each Wednesday via Zoom, and the Zoom link will be sent out each Wednesday via the all-church email list. Reading Schedule: December 6<sup>th</sup> – Chapters 4-7; December 13<sup>th</sup> – Chapters 8-10

Sun., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>; **Hors d'oeuvres Carry-In / Cantata**

On Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>, we will sing our Cantata during the service. After the service we will have an hors d'oeuvres carry-in. We are asking that instead of big dishes, people bring plates of small appetizers to share.

Wed., Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>; **Service of Remembrance, 7:00 pm**

This year we will again be holding a special service to honor those who will not be with us this holiday season. The service will take place on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and be held in-person and online.

Sun., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>; **Impromptu Christmas Pageant, 10:30 am**

Please join us for our Impromptu Christmas Pageant on Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 am service. We will hand out parts, and there will be costumes available for anyone who wants them. It will be a bunch of fun and will get people in the spirit of Christmas.

Sun., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>; **Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 pm**

Please join us for our traditional Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm. Pastor Brian will offer a Christmas message, and we will sing your favorite traditional Christmas hymns. We will have communion and end with Silent Night by candlelight.