



DECEMBER 10, 2023 10:30 A.M.
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(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* *I Wonder as I Wander* No. 139

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

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE (SEE INSERT)

*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 5th grade. Children depart to go to Sunday School after the Children's Moment.

Lay Reader: TBD

Fellowship Meal: Pastor Brian

Today's altar flowers are donated by Doug & Janice Rice.

- 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 17th, 2023
 Scripture: Christmas Program
 Fellowship Meal: Carry-in Hors d'oeuvres
 Lay Reader: Christmas Program

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP[†]

Leader: Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages.
People: We hear and respond. We rise up to worship God from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.
 Leader: Like a shepherd God leads us and tenderly gathers us together.
People: Comfort, comfort O my people, says our God of love.
All: The grass withers and the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever!

INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION[†]

All: All too often we fail in our efforts to live as God would have us live. We push away turning cold shoulders to God and each other. We express anger and resentment instead of compassion and grace. We seek revenge instead of reconciliation. In these moments we ask God to forgive us and set us upon the right path.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS[†]

Leader: When we turn to God with faithful hearts, God hears and responds. Our failings and shortcomings are forgiven. Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. God gives what is good and spreads the path of righteousness before us. Walk in confidence forgiven and forgiving in Christ's name.
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

TIME OF PRAYER (You may remain seated)

Call to Prayer Hymn *What Can I Give Him?* No. 154
Joys and Concerns

All: Dear Lord, hear our prayers.

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debts, debtors)

Choral Response *Spirit Divine, Hear Our Prayer* 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 *Mary Did You Know?*

LESSONS Psalm 126 OT pg. 683
John 1:6-8, 19-28 NT pg. 124

SERMON "Future"

CLOSING HYMN* *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* No. 138

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

Wed. Dec. 13th; **Book Study, 7:00 pm**

We will have our final book study on Wednesday December 13th. 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 13th – Chapters 8-10

Sun., Dec. 17th; **Christmas Program / Hors d'oeuvres Carry-In**

On Sunday December 17th, we will have our Christmas Program from the choir and bell choir during the service. After the service we will have an hors d'oeuvres carry-in. We are asking that people bring plates of small appetizers to share.

Wed., Dec. 20th; **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 20th at 7:00 PM and be held in-person and online.

Sun., Dec. 24th; **Impromptu Christmas Pageant, 10:30 am**

Please join us for our Impromptu Christmas Pageant on Sunday December 24th 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.

Sun., Dec. 24th; **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.