



DECEMBER 17, 2023 10:30 A.M.

THIRD 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* *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* No. 128

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 THIRD 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: N/A

Fellowship Meal: Hors d'oeuvres Carry-in

Today's altar flowers are donated by Margene & Isabel.

- Please consider donating new non-perishable food items to our outdoor food pantry, they can be put directly in the outdoor pantry, the collection shelf in the Fellowship Hall, 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 24th, 2023
 Scripture: Impromptu Christmas Pageant
 Fellowship Meal: None
 Lay Reader: N/A

NEW MEMBER CEREMONY

(SEE INSERT)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP[†]

Leader: We gather to worship with expectations: God revealed in new and astonishing ways.

People: God comes to us in real time. God comes to us in dreams.

Leader: Sometimes God's presence is hard to take in – difficult to believe.

People: Oh God, we long to believe. Help our unbelief!

Leader: God is present here. God is working in our midst.

All: Then our mouths are filled with laughter, our tongues shout out with joy!

INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION[†]

All: We bow our heads in holy reverence. Oh God, we long to be free of burdens that hold us captive. We long to be bearers of good news to the oppressed. We long to return to your favor. Forgive us our transgressions; loosen the chains of doubt that bind us.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS[†]

Leader: You are forgiven! God loves you. God blesses you with new beginnings and new life. Put aside your old ways and become new! God gives a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning. Sing, dance, and rejoice! Never forget the gift of God's redeeming grace.

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

TIME OF PRAYER (You may remain seated)

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

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Bells: *Love Has Come*

Choir: *Heaven Rejoices*

Choir: *When Christmas Comes to Me*

Bells: *The First Noel*

Choir: *Come Let Us Worship Him*

Choir: *Star of Bethlehem*

Bells: *Away in a Manger*

Choir: *Holy Is His Name*

Bells: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Choir: *Gloria*

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;

Christmas Program / Hors d'oeuvres Carry-In

Today 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 downstairs.

Today;

Christmas Fund Offering, 10:30 am

Today we will take up our final special denominational offering for the Christmas Fund.

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.

Sun., Dec. 31st;

Question Sunday, 10:30 am

Sunday December 31st will be a Question Sunday. Church members will be asked to write down questions at the beginning of the service or submit them via Facebook and pastor Brian will answer them during his sermon time.