

DECEMBER 24, 2023 10:30 A.M. FOURTH 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 Heard the Bells on Christmas Day No. 152

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 FOURTH 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, Beavercreek, 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: None
Today's altar flowers are donated by the Rauls family in honor of the birth of Jesus.

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- 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: Psalm 148 & Luke 2:22-50 Fellowship Meal: The Severtsons Lay Reader: Mindy Severtson

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP[†]

Leader: We come to witness a miracle.

People: We sing the miracle of God's steadfast love. Leader: New life bursts forth in unexpected ways.

People: We shout the good news: God's covenant endures

forever!

Leader: The desert blooms; what was barren is fertile!

All: With our mouths we proclaim God's faithfulness to

all!

INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION[†]

All: Too often we pride ourselves on our singular

importance, our individual worth. We credit ourselves with our successes and blame our shortcomings on others. O God, you love us in spite of ourselves. You made a covenant with the faithful; you have never turned away from your promise. Forgive us our selfish ways, put contrite hearts within us. Anoint us with

your Holy Spirit.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS[†]

Leader: God knows our weakness and our strengths. God loves

us as we are, knowing we are yet works in progress. God keeps all covenants; God keeps us. Receive the anointing love of God's grace. You are forgiven!

Rejoice!

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

IMPROMPTU CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Please join us as we have our Impromptu Christmas Pageant. We will hand out parts and costumes and perform the pageant with no rehearsal needed.

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; Impromptu Christmas Pageant, 10:30 am
Please join us for our Impromptu Christmas Pageant today 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.

This Evening; 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.

- 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.