



DECEMBER 31, 2023 10:30 A.M.
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

(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* *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* No. 133

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

BAPTISM CEREMONY (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: Mindy Severtson
Fellowship Meal: The Severtsons

Today's altar flowers are donated by Karen Barger in gratitude for the work the choir and bell choir performed this year.

- 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.

January 7th, 2024

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-5 & Mark 1:4-11

Fellowship Meal: First Sunday Carry-In

Lay Reader: TBD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP[†]

Leader: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,
People: God is there.
 Leader: When Jesus is presented at the temple,
People: God is there.
 Leader: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,
People: God is there.
 Leader: When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,
People: God is here.
 Leader: This very morning,
People: God is here.
 Leader: In the future we cannot see,
People: God is there.
All: Let us worship God!

INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION[†]

All: Holy God, we know that you have been present to us throughout all of history, even throughout our own histories. We know you will be with us in our future. Yet often we don't live as if we know that. You ask no more of us than what we can provide. As Jesus' parents were asked to give within their means at the temple, you ask us to give of our means. We often fail to do this. Forgive us, make us wise and joyful and strong so that we live in the understanding of your never-ending love. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS[†]

Leader: The scriptures promise that God will make all things new. As God makes the year new, may we also be made new by God's love and forgiveness in Jesus
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

TIME OF PRAYER (You may remain seated)

Call to Prayer Hymn *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming* No. 160
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

SPECIAL MUSIC Mindy Severtson and Karen Barger

LESSONS Psalm 148 OT pg. 693
Luke 2:22-50 NT pg. 80

QUESTION SUNDAY

CLOSING HYMN* *Let There Be Peace on Earth*
(Back Cover of Hymnal)

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; **Question Sunday, 10:30 am**

Today 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.

Today; **Taking Down Decorations, 11:45 am**

Today is the last Sunday before the end of Christmas. We are asking that members stay after we have shared our meal, and that we all work together to take down and put away our Christmas decorations. Many hands make short work.

Sun., Jan. 21st; **Annual Congregational Meeting, 12:15 pm**

Our 2024 annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday January 21st after the fellowship lunch, in the sanctuary at 12:15pm. We will reminisce about activities that occurred in 2023, vote on the budget for 2024, and vote on the slate of incoming consistory members. Your presence is needed, and your opinions matter. This is your chance to voice your concerns or to give praise for a job well done. The meeting will also be broadcast over Facebook Live and YouTube so that those wishing to participate remotely will be able to do so.

- Please consider donating new non-perishable food items to our outdoor food patty or the collection box in the comfort room.