

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and
Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen

OFFERING

A child is born for us, a Savior, given to us. Let us then offer our lives to the Lord. Tonight's offering will go directly to the Deacons to continue their efforts in supporting our community.

* **RESPONSE** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 606
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All Glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With singing angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, using our gifts, our time, and our talents so that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, acknowledging your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

CANDLE LIGHTING

***HYMN** "Silent Night" Verse 1-3 122

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE** "Silent Night" Verse 4 122

*POSTLUDE



OHIO UNITED

Presbyterian Church



***Loving God,
Loving Neighbor;
Helping Our Neighbors to Love God***
December 24, 2024
Christmas Eve, 6pm

DISCIPLES GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Kalyn Stewing

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you

Let us share this peace with one another.

(please greet those around you with signs of peace)

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for the worship of God.

WHERE THE PROMISE SHINES

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Where there is division, we long for unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts

Where there is hostility, we long for resolution.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Where there is separation, we long for reunion.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Tonight we light all the candles. The first candle ignites the thrill of hope in the hearts of weary people. The second candle shines peace that surpasses understanding into a conflicted and confused world. The third candle expresses the joy of fulfilled promises and the anticipation of those yet to come. The fourth candle shines with grace and new life in God's unconditional love. Tonight, we light the Christ Candle in celebration of our Messiah's birth.

As God's promises continue to shine, we echo the words shared through the ages – Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** (unison) Liturgist Jen Davis
Great God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way, the truth, and the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

***HYMN** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" 132

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)
God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

Silence is kept...

DECLARATION OF PARDON

God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might have the hope of eternal life.

ALL: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen.

***RESPONSE** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Verse 4 121

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM "A Carol of Hope"

CHILDREN'S CHAT

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh – good news of great joy for all – so that we may sing with the angels: glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 52:7-10, John 1:1-14

SERMON "Even the Mouse"

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison)

Written by Rev. M. Jade Kaiser, enfleshed

As a gathered community of disciples,
created by the hands of the Holy,
born with Divine purpose,
and bound together by the Spirit
that breaths life into all things,

we affirm our commitment to the way of Jesus Christ,
who is The Liberator of the Oppressed,
the Bread of Heaven,
God enfleshed.

With faith, we aim to live as Christ taught us,
laboring towards liberation,
and seeking a world free of domination and control.

We believe in God's promise to uplift the lowly
and bring the powerful down from their thrones.

We believe the resurrecting power of Christ
cannot be overcome by evil,
but persists in all collective efforts
to make life flourish in the midst of destruction,
to birth beauty in places of death,
and to tend gently to the aches of this world.

We profess the transforming power of love.
We profess that justice is a form of love.
We profess that we are still growing into the mystery of love.

In the company of the saints who go before us,
we journey together by grace,
seeking always to unlearn all that obstructs authentic relationship,
listening for the guidance of Sacred Wisdom,
and praying earnestly for the day
the Kingdom of God is born anew.

Until it is so, we live in hope
for God with us.

***HYMN** "Away in a Manger"

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday School

No Sunday School tonight

Adult Sunday School–9am to 9:45am

Tuesday, December 24–Christmas Eve Service at 6pm

Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 & 25–Office closed

Sunday, December 29–Pajamas optional Service @10am

Wednesday, January 1– Office closed

Sunday, January 5–Undecorating the church following worship

Monday, January 6–Property Meeting @6:30pm

Monday, January 6–Youth Group resumes

There will be a Congregational Meeting on January 5, 2025 following the worship service to elect officers

The OUPC Christmas Card mailbox is in the Narthex ready to be filled with your Christmas greetings. If you wish to send cards to fellow church members who attend regularly, bring your cards and put them in the slots that are in alphabetical order. You might want to check your slot to see if you have mail. While you are spreading good cheer you will be saving money on postage stamps that you might consider making an extra donation for upcoming projects like repaving the parking lot.

Keep Them in Your Prayers: Donna Olexick, Rich Kerlin, Paul (Karen Keller's friend), Lynn Smith, Peter Kerlin, Marcia Davis, Jack Gennaro, Tom Owczarzak, Paul Kulha, Jim Williams

In the Military: William Barth

Those who are not able to worship regularly: Sarah Jane Shaffer, Dolores Skinner, Lois Davie, Pat & Tony Wozniak, Ella Mae Speiker, Edna Petrella, Dorothy Elko, Irene Gartley, Libby Urick, Trudy Boggs, Betty Solinski, Ed & Evelyn Lawson

OHIO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1236 LONGVUE AVE.

ALIQUIPPA, PA 15001

Our website is: www.ohiopresbyterian.org

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@ohiounitedpresbyterianchurch1974/streams>

- Sunday worship 10:00 am
- Sunday School for our younger members (Grades Pre-K - 6th grade) during worship

Pastor:

Kalyn D. Stevwing

pastorkalyn@gmail.com

724-841-8145

Administrative Assistant:

Nancy Connell

Church office hours Monday through Thursday 9:00-2:00

Church phone #: 724-378-3690 ext. 3

Church email: office@ohioupchurch.com

Choir Director: Amanda Collins

Worship Leader/Pianist: Alli Feszko

Custodian: Monica Ward

Treasurer: Chris Hurni

Youth Coordinator: Peggy Franzese

Organist Emeritus: Shirley Fluharty

OUR SESSION

CLASS OF 2026: Joe Glatz, Jennifer Davis

Rich Palmer (2T), John Martin (2T)

CLASS OF 2025: Chris Otto (2T), Casey Honess (2T),

Patti Strominger, Chris Mathias

CLASS OF 2024: Gina Arzberger (2T), Rayna Knox

Paul Magee (2T), Wendi Rybicki

OUR DEACONS

CLASS OF 2026: Dave Kocher, Ivonne Holsinger

Greg Holsinger, Dianne Kanitra (2T)

CLASS OF 2025: Dawn Psik, Terri Owczarzak

Denise Matthias, Ken Jones

CLASS OF 2024: Jeff Barth, Bob Hurni

Eleanor Pike, Corinna Petrella

