

Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SENDING

***HYMN** “Love Has Come!” 110

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE** “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

***POSTLUDE**

***Please stand if you are able**

The Ohio UP Church Christmas Card Box is in the Narthex ready for your Christmas Cards for members who regularly attend Worship in person. The Deacons will pass them out before and after our Worship Services. You may make a small donation to the Deacons if you wish.



OHIO UNITED
Presbyterian Church



***Loving God;
Loving Neighbors;***

Helping Our Neighbors to Love God

**December 7, 2025
Second Sunday in Advent**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

People: And also with you

Leader: Let us share this peace with one another...

(please share the peace of Christ with those around you)

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Skye Lanham

WHERE THE PROMISE SHINES

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Rich and Dolly Kerlin

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.

Candle Lighting

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** represents the everlasting hope that has touched our lives in the person of Jesus Christ. In a world of deviousness, brokenness and uncertainty, the **second candle** summons our hearts to the One called Prince of Peace. As the light shines, may we embrace and extend the peace of Christ in all that we do and say.

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** (unison) Liturgist Jen Davis

Through the words of the prophets you promised your people the Redeemer, and gave hope for the day when justice shall roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. We rejoice that in Jesus Christ, your Son, the Savior has come and that he will come again in power and glory to make all things new. Amen

***HYMN** “Angels We Have Heard on High” 113

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Father God, all creation groans in expectation, longing for the redemption of your coming Reign. We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength, but too often take whichever path offers the least resistance. We have not always loved our neighbors nor ourselves, but have lived and worked in ways that divide nation against nation, race against race. Our faith is half-hearted, too quick to give in to temptation, bound to sin and unable to save ourselves. Our worship is marked by selfishness, our witness clouded by fear. We turn away from the brightness of your glory. Ever-faithful, ever-gracious God, forgive our sins and write your Law in our hearts. As we look forward in hope to the Savior’s promised coming, prepare our lives to receive him in joy and gratitude, that we may live with him in your love forever. Amen

Silence is kept for a time of personal confession

DECLARATION OF PARDON

*My friends, the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
AMEN*

***RESPONSE** “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

Lord, I lift your name on high.
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I’m so glad you’re in my life.
I’m so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
from the earth to the cross my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord, I lift your name on high.

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF UNDERSTANDING

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen

ANTHEM “A Carol of Hope”

CHILDREN’S CHAT

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Now we are all [sitting] here in the presence of God, to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us (Acts 10:33)

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 11:1-10, Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON “Getting Ready”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(from The Westminster Confession of Faith 6.043)

It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the prophet, priest, and king; the head and Savior of his Church, the heir of all things, and judge of the world; unto whom he did, from all eternity, give a people to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified. Amen

***HYMN** “Lo! How a Rose E’er Blooming” 129

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

***RESPONSE** “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” 606
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday School

Children 3 yr - 6th grade during worship following children's chat
Adult Sunday School - in Library at 9am studying the Book of James
led by John Martin

Wednesdays -Story Time begins at 9:30 or 10:30 am

Sunday, December 7-Kid's Musical Practice with adult choir 9-9:45am

Monday, December 8-Kid's Musical Rehearsal with adult choir 6-7pm

Wednesday, December 10-Ruth Circle @1pm

Saturday, December 13-Dress Rehearsal & Pizza Party with adult choir
9-11:30am

Thursday, December 11-Hopewell Big Band Concert @7pm

Saturday, December 13-Cookie Bazaar

Sunday, December 14-Children's musical Program

Sunday, December 21-Cantata

Office closed December 24 and 25

Christmas Eve Service with communion @7pm

The Wish Tree is up at the front of the sanctuary. Please consider taking a tag to help a local child have a blessed Christmas. Please return presents unwrapped with the tag attached by December 7.

Would you like to offer special music on Christmas Eve before the service? We are looking to have some pre-service music starting around 6:45pm. If you would like to do, please see Chris Mathias.

\$184,213 Expenses year to date-what has been paid out for salaries, utilities, services, etc.

\$188,020 Collected year to date-what has come in through the offering plate or through electronic deposits to the Current Fund. This does not include any money marked for missions or deacons.

\$3,806 Difference between expenses and collections. This is a positive figure.

Keep Them in Your Prayers: Donna Olexick, Rich Kerlin, Lynn Smith, Peter Kerlin, Jack Gennaro, Paul Kulha, Jim William, Bonnie Martin, Cheryl Lachowicz

In the Military: William Barth, Nick Hoth

Those who are not able to worship regularly: Sarah Jane Shaffer, Dolores Skinner, Ella Mae Speiker, Edna Petrella, Dorothy Elko, Libby Urick, Trudy Boggs, Betty Solinski, Ed & Evelyn Lawson, Everitt Laird, Betty Martin, Brenda Jones

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/@ohiounitedpresbyterianchur1974/streams>

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

Transitional Pastor:

Rev. James Steiner

724-579-4507

pastor@ohioupchurch.com

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

Worship Accompanist: Skye Lanham

Custodian: Monica Ward

Treasurer: Chris Hurni

Organist Emeritus: Shirley Fluharty

OUR SESSION

CLASS OF 2027: Wendi Rybicki (2T), Christina Palmer

Michael Kamenski, Charles Hendrick

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

OUR DEACONS

CLASS OF 2027: Eleanor Pike (2T), Bob Hurni (2T)

Chris Hurni, Ginny Adams

CLASS OF 2026: Dave Kocher, Ivonne Holsinger

Greg Holsinger, Dianne Kanitra (2T)

CLASS OF 2025: Dawn Psik, Terri Owczarzak

Denise Mathias, Ken Jones

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper’s nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”