

WELCOME in the NAME OF JESUS  
St. Peter's Lischey's UCC  
www.lischeysucc.org (717) 225-3932  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 22, 2024  
10:30 AM (In the Sanctuary & via YouTube)

Welcome and Gathering Songs- Blaine Breeden

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Holst/Boyles

Call to Worship

Solo Voice: O come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill all the world with heaven's peace.

**ALL SING: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

L: He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples;

**P: And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;**

L: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

**P: Neither shall they learn war anymore.**

**ALL SING: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Advent Candle Lighting ~ The Candle of Love (Grayson Flynn & Christ DeGroft)

L: Once God's plan was a mystery...the candle of Love. Let us pray:

**ALL: Dear God, your faithfulness has been great, leading us to this day of anticipation and celebration. May the glorious light of your love shine brightly in and through us, that all may give you praise and glory. Amen.**

Hymn: "The Advent of Our God" - Red Hymnal #120

Williams

Confession

L: God has made us children of the light, but we have chosen the road of shadows and darkness. Let us make our confession to God.

**ALL: Holy God, you come to us, yet we close the doors of our minds and hearts.**

**You come to us as the Christ of all children, yet we fail to find room for your manger in our world. You come to us breathing new life into our tired beings, yet we are content with our old selves and tired ways. O come, Emmanuel, and set our feet again on Bethlehem's road. Open our ears to listen for angels' songs, our eyes to watch for your light, and our hearts to greet your presence. Amen.**

L: Live with hope. Live in peace with one another. Believe a new day is coming, for God has forgiven you.

**P: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

Hymn: "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" - Red Hymnal #151

Stainer

Joyful Singers: “Away in the Manger”

Delancy

Children’s Message- Michele Hamme

Sanctuary Choir: “The Majestic Manger”

Martin

Scripture: Luke 1:26-45 – Michele Hamme

Message: Almost There!

Welcome New Member: Deb Brooks

Announcements, Joys, and Prayer Concerns

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

\*Closing Hymn: “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” – Red Hymnal #128

Willis

Special Music: “Little Drummer Boy” – Solo by Grayson Flynn

for King & Country

\*Benediction

\*Postlude: “The First Noel”

Moffatt

\*All who are able, please rise.



Weekly Announcements, Updates, and Concerns

December 22, 2024

Visitors...

Thank you for joining us today. We are happy to have you here. Please sign the guestbook located at the bell tower. Since you may be unfamiliar with us, below are some housekeeping items to help you find your way around:

- Restrooms are located in the overflow room, in the new section by the office, and down the stairs from the new sections.
- Brown offering envelopes are located in the pew backs and also on the cart by the bulletins. The offering plate is located on the cart.

Thank You...

A heartfelt thank you to Nancy Cherry and the Sanctuary Choir for their stunning performance of the Christmas Cantata, “One of Us,” last Sunday. Your dedication and hard work culminated in a truly inspiring and uplifting presentation. A special thanks also goes to the narrators for delivering such a powerful and meaningful message. It was a beautiful experience for all who attended.

### Thank You...

Thank you for the beautiful Christmas card featuring a picture of our church's altar. The Special part for me was all the people who wrote their name on the card. WOW! I hope everyone's Christmas is filled with Joy and Happiness! For the year 2025...Let's hope and pray for a Miracle— A more Peaceful World!

### Christmas Fund Offering TODAY for The Veterans of the Cross...

The Christmas Fund offering benefits the **Veterans of the Cross**. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities, and health premiums. The Christmas Fund helps those who have dedicated their lives to serving our churches. If you wish to support this offering, you can use the special envelopes on the cart. Thank you!

### Hat-Scarf-Glove Tree...

During the month of December, we will be collecting mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and other cold-weather accessories. Handmade items are warmly welcomed! The Mission Committee will distribute these donations to local mission groups at the start of the new year. Please place your contributions on the wooden tree located in the overflow room. Thank you for your generosity.

~ *The Mission Committee*

### Needed: Your Knowledge of the Church...

If there is anyone that has any knowledge of any or all of the memorabilia items (be it the clocks, wall hangings, items in the cupboard, or pictures on the storage unit) in the overflow room to the rear of the sanctuary, please see any members of the anniversary committee (Sandy Lehman, Nancy McIntyre, Darlene Miner, Karla Waltersdorff) or Pastor Cathy to share that information. Thank you! We appreciate your help.

### St. Peter's Lischey's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration...

St. Peter's Lischey's will be celebrating its 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. We will focus on different areas of church life throughout the year. If you are interested in helping to plan the activities/events, there is a signup sheet on the table in the overflow room. Please indicate an area in which you are interested in helping.

### 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memory Notebook Sign-Up...

The 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary information during the coming year, in written form, will be shared with the members. Members will receive an email with the information so that they may create their own digital memory books. If you don't think that the office has your current email address, please write it on the form on the table in the overflow room. If you would like a notebook to create a hardcopy of the information, please sign up on the form located in the same area. Handouts of the information presented will be available for pickup in the overflow room.

### Thank you to our helpers this week:

<i>Gathering Music</i>	Blaine Breeden
<i>Lay Liturgist</i>	Michele Hamme
<i>Children's Message</i>	Michele Hamme

### Next week's helpers are:

Cynthia Elicker
Blaine Breeden
Pastor Cathy

