

Parents -Please escort your children to the restrooms.  
Thank you.

§ Denotes when to stand as you are able

## WE GATHER to be NURTURED

Prelude "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"  
*Praisin' & Prayin' Puppets*

*Ringing of the Bell*

*Please sign registration sheets and pass to others in your pew.*

Advent Reading & Lighting the Candle of Joy

*Teresa Field, Michelle Xayasouk*

*Please see the screens and participate as you are able.*

§ Opening Hymn UMH #213

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Sharing of Joys and Journeys

*Rev. Calvin Culpepper*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer, UMH #895

"Ding Dong Merrily On High"

*Children's Choir*

## WE ARE NURTURED by GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lesson - New Testament p.157 Romans 8:1-17

*Leader:* This is the Good News of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*People:* Glory to you, O Lord.

Children's Christmas Pageant

"The First Noel" *Children's Choir*

"The True Meaning of Christmas" *Reading*

"Carol Medley" *Puppets*

"The Holly and the Ivy" *Children's Choir*

"What Christmas Is All About" *Reading*

"Christmas Medley" *Puppets*

"Joy to the World" *Children's Choir*

§ Scripture Lesson - New Testament p. 12 Matthew 11:25-30

*Leader:* This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
according to Matthew.

*People:* Glory to you, O Lord.

## WE RESPOND to GOD'S WORD

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves

Offertory "Thy Will"

*Lydia, Tegan, & Rianne Ludington*

§ Doxology UMH #94 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

## WE ARE SCATTERED to SERVE

§ Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #206

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

§ Benediction

Send, O God, into the darkness of this troubled world, the light of your Son. Let the star of your hope touch the minds of all people with the bright beams of mercy and truth, and so direct our steps that we may always walk in the way revealed to us, as the shepherds of Bethlehem walked with joy to the manger where He dwelt, who now and ever reigns in our hearts, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*~ John Wallace Suter (1890-1977), Dean of Washington Cathedral*

Postlude

"Joseph's Lullaby"

*Stick Routine*

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"

*Children's Choir*

Facetime by the Big Bell



Poinsettias have been given...  
...in loving memory of Mama, Mary Cromwell,  
by Bert & Scott Cromwell.

Memory Verse for This Week

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and lowly in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls!"

*~ Matthew 11:29 (RSV)*



We welcome you, member or visitor, as we join in worshipping God this morning. We pray you will be blessed and invite you to return!

*Don't forget to pick up Scrip for Christmas giving TODAY!*

"The Redemption of Scrooge" study continues today at 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor with Pastor Cal. If you can't make today, come Wednesday to study with James L. Crow at 6:00 p.m. in the Dining Room.

## 30 Minute Worship

Noon • Chapel

Wednesday - December 21 - The Hope of Christmas Future

*Rev. Calvin Culpepper*

*Dan Holmes, guitar; Mark Tennin, African percussion; James Marck, piano*

**\*\*Holy COW(Church On Wednesday)! on Dec. 21st\*\***

Christmas Blues

Wednesday • December 21 • 5:00 p.m. • Chapel

*Contemporary Seasonal Service*

6:00 - "The Redemption of Scrooge" Study (Dining Room)

6:00 - Mens' Fellowship (Parlor)

Family Christmas Service

Saturday • December 24 • 4:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

Candlelight Service

Saturday • December 24 • 9:30 p.m. • Sanctuary

Christmas Service

Sunday • December 25 • 10:00 a.m. • Sanctuary

*Featuring Mark Nelson Brass & Chancel Choir*

Church is Closed - Monday - Dec. 26

AGO Presents: More Carols, More Rhythm

Tuesday • December 27 • 7:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

*Open to the public. Directed by James Marck, Ron Barshinger, and Ron Weber, this will be a wonderful carol-sing with hot chocolate to keep everyone warm in this cold season. Bring your left-over Christmas cookies to share!*

New Year's Day Service

Sunday • January 1 • 10:00 a.m. • Sanctuary

Church is Closed - Monday - Jan. 2

**If you have not yet turned in your 2017 pledge card, you may still do so.**

Please contact the church office or see an usher if you need a pledge card. You may mail or bring to the church office, drop it in the offering plate, or give to an usher. Thank you!

*Your contributions in the white baskets on the 1st Sunday of every month at Communion will be greatly appreciated to further our local outreach. The Local Mission Committee will report what they do with your monthly contributions in The Chimes.*

**MINISTRY STAFF AT COURT STREET**

- The Congregation *Ministers*
- Calvin Culpepper *Pastor*  
cculpepper@courtstreetumc.org
- Ryanne Ludington *Christian Education Director*  
RyanneLudington@sbcglobal.net
- James L. Crow *Director of Arts Ministries*  
JamesCrow@courtstreetumc.org
- Teresa Field *Parish Nurse*  
TeresaField@courtstreetumc.org
- James Marck *Director of Music*  
JamesMarck@courtstreetumc.org
- Diane Lutmer *Nursery*
- Verlette Gorman *Church Co-Administrator*  
ChurchAdmin1@courtstreetumc.org
- Lorelle Wandell *Church Co-Administrator*  
LorelleWandell@courtstreetumc.org
- Derek Coffman *Maintenance Engineer*  
Maintenance@courtstreetumc.org
- Ryan Welk & Luke Kelsey-Powell *Custodians*

**Court Street United Methodist Church**

215 North Court Street Rockford, IL 61103  
Church Office: (815) 962-6061 Church Fax: (815) 962-9754  
www.courtstreetumc.org

**WELCOME!**

December 18, 2016

*We're glad you're worshipping with us this morning! Please fill out this card if you are a visitor to our church or if you have changed your address or phone number. Place completed card in the offering plate as it is passed.*

- I'm a visitor.
- Please note my address change.

Name (s): Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms.

How did you hear about Court Street? \_\_\_\_\_

Children:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**TODAY'S WORSHIP**

**Greeter:** Jan Mace

**Ushers:** The Davis/Dienhart Team **Sound Tech:** Brian Meligan

**Video Tech:** Steve Ripley **Van Driver:** Tim Gorman

**Facetime Hostess:** Judy Mehren

**Court St. United Methodist Church at Work This Week**

- Sun 12/18 4th Sunday of Advent**
- 9:00 am 'Believe' Study in the Parlor
  - 9:00 Sunday School: PreK-grade 5 in 104; grades 6-12 in Balcony West
  - 9:00 Lamplighters (Adult Sunday School) in 209
  - 10:00 Worship Service - Children's Pageant
  - 11:15 Facetime by the Big Bell
  - 11:30 "Redemption of Scrooge" Study - Parlor
- Mon 12/19**
- 8:30 am MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103
  - 2:30 pm Rockford Rhythm: Intro Class in 307
  - 6:00 Worship Committee in the Parlor
  - 6:00 Rockford Rhythm (12-16) in the Gym
- Tue 12/20**
- 8:30 am MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103
  - 9:00 Quilters in Room 206
  - 9:00 History & Archives in Room 201
  - 9:00 "Ugly Bag Ladies" in Room 205
  - 10:30 Staff Meeting in Staff Conference Room
  - 6:00 pm JuBellation Rehearsal in Sanctuary
  - 7:00 Grace Awakening in Room 202 & 209
  - 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary
- Wed 12/21**
- 8:30 am MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103
  - 9:30 Early Head Start in Room 100
  - 9:30 Deborah Circle @ 7581 W. State St.
  - 12:00 pm 30 Minute Worship in the Chapel
  - 5:00 Holy COW! -- \*\*see announcements\*\*
  - 5:30 N IL Wood Turners in the Youth Center
- Thu 12/22**
- 9:30 Early Head Start in Room 100
  - 10:00 MAYA's House Christmas Party-Dining Room
  - 1:00 pm Chimes Stuffing in the Library
  - 2:30 Early Head Start in Room 100
- Fri 12/23**
- 10:00 am Early Head Start in Room 100
  - 1:30 pm Early Head Start in Room 100
- Sat 12/24**
- 4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve in Sanctuary
  - 9:30 Candlelight Christmas Eve in Sanctuary
- Sun 12/25 Christmas Day - Merry Christmas!**
- 10:00 am Worship Service

If you do not wish to keep any part or all of your bulletin at the the end of service, please give it back to an usher and we will recycle it.  
Thank you for helping our environment!



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

**F**orging  
a *Family* of **Faith**



FOR ALL WHO  
ARE LED BY  
THE SPIRIT  
OF GOD ARE  
CHILDREN  
OF GOD.

ROMANS 8:14

*Welcome to Court Street United Methodist Church*



We are a people called United Methodists.  
*Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors*

The mission of Court Street United Methodist Church is to be a welcoming, nurturing, and serving community of Christ.

*4th Sunday of Advent  
December 18, 2016*