

Parents -Please escort your children to the restrooms.
Also, please keep your personal belongings with you at all times.
Thank you.

§ Denotes when to stand as you are able

WE GATHER to be NURTURED

Prelude The Holy Boy (Nativity Carol) ~ John Ireland

Ringing of the Bell

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

Leader: Joseph trusted in God and kept Mary as his wife even though society's rules told him he shouldn't. In what ways are we being called to trust in order to play our part in God's story?

George & Mary after their wedding from 'It's a Wonderful Life'

Mary *Cindy Anderson*

§ Opening Hymns

UMH #224 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"
UMH #245 "The First Noel"

Sharing of Joys and Journeys *Rev. Calvin Culpepper*

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer, UMH #895

WE ARE NURTURED by GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading - p. 636 Isaiah 7:10-16

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God

People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn FWS #2129, vs 1 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

The children are invited to come forward as we sing.

Children's Message *Ryanne Ludington*

Hymn - see screens, vs 1 "This Little Light of Mine"

§ Gospel Reading - New Testament p. 1 Matthew 1:18-25

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Anthem "Carol of the Bells" *Chancel Choir*

"It's a Wonderful Life: Trust It"
Rev. Calvin Culpepper

WE RESPOND to GOD'S WORD

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves
Offertory

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

WE ARE SCATTERED to SERVE

§ Hymns of Sending Forth
UMH #254, verses 1, 5 "We Three Kings"
UMH #246 "Joy to the World"

§ Benediction

Leader: "Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel."

People: God be in us as we prepare for Christ's birth. God be with us in our prayers, songs, gifts and meditations. God be with us in our homes, in this church, and in our communities.

Postlude

Toccatina on 'Angels we have Heard on High' ~ *Richard Elliott*



Altar flowers are given...

in celebration of our Savior's birth
by Tim & Verlette Gorman.

Memory Verse for This Week

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us."

Matthew 1:23



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!

All are welcome to celebrate Christmas with us:

Christmas Eve Family Worship

TODAY

4:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

Candlelight Worship

TODAY

9:30 p.m.

Sanctuary

Church is Closed on Monday, Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas!

Behold I make all things New:

A Service of Resolution & Recharge for the New Year

Sunday - December 31

10:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

Please turn in all 2017 contributions by December 31st.

Thank you!

Fair Trade is Gift Giving with a Conscience

Shop at JustGoods, 201 7th St.

From Amelia Simpson, Rockford JFON Clinic Coordinator: Our attorney has let us know that in order to meet the requirements of the New Americans Initiative grant for the citizenship workshops, as well as accommodate her workload, we'll only schedule one month at a time. Therefore, the only confirmed date we have right now is Sunday, January 28th. Hopefully we'll be able to hold a clinic once a month in Rockford, presumably on the dates we originally gave you for January through April, but the only confirmed one at this point is January.

Ski Outing for all Youth ~ Go with Bruce Martin on Wednesday, January 3, 2018. Check the bulletin board outside the Church Office for information & permission slips. Please **respond by Tuesday, December 27th** to Diane Lutmer cell (815) 978-0092, Dessie Voigt cell (815) 505-5263, or Bruce Martin cell (815) 985-6159.

Children's Choir is looking for new singers. If your son/daughter enjoys singing, or if they have a friend who likes to sing, think about being in the Children's Choir here at church. We rehearse each Sunday for half an hour after church. All you have to do is come ready to have fun and make a joyful noise to the Lord. Any questions, contact Jack Armstrong, the music director, at (815) 742-7415.

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*
 ludingtonryanne@gmail.com
 James L. Crow *Director of Arts Ministries*
 JamesCrow@courtstreetumc.org
 Teresa Field *Parish Nurse*
 TeresaField@courtstreetumc.org
 Diane Lutmer *Nursery*
 Verlette Gorman *Church Co-Administrator*
 ChurchAdmin1@courtstreetumc.org
 Lorelle Wandell *Church Co-Administrator*
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 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

TODAY'S WORSHIP
Greeters: Judy & Fred Mehren **Acolyte:** Hannah Whitmore
Ushers: The Davis/Dienhart Team **Sound Tech:** Brian Meligan
Video Tech: Steve Ripley **Van Driver:** Dan Boon
Liturgist: Lorelle Wandell

Court St. United Methodist Church at Work This Week

Sun 12/24 4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve
 9:00 am **Lamplighters in Room 209**
 10:00 **Worship Service in the Sanctuary**
 4:00 pm **Family Worship in the Sanctuary**
 9:30 **Candlelight Worship in the Sanctuary**

Mon 12/25 Church is Closed - Merry Christmas!

Tue 12/26 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

Wed 12/27 8:30 am MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103
 9:30 Early Head Start in Room 100

Thu 12/28 8:30 am MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103
 9:30 Early Head Start in Room 100
 1:00 pm **Chimes stuffing in the Library**
 2:30 YAVO/Haskell in the Gym

Fri 12/29 8:30 am MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103
 10:00 Early Head Start in Room 100
 1:30 pm Early Head Start in Room 100

Sat 12/30 5:30 pm Choir Party @ the Bakers'

Sun 12/31 Epiphany Sunday
 10:00 am **Worship Service in the Sanctuary**

Looking Ahead:

Sat 01/06 9:00 am De-green the Church - We need all the help we can get, please.

WELCOME!

December 24, 2017

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 _____

ORDER OF WORSHIP
 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

Have with God
 "...they will call him
 Immanuel"
 — which means,
 "God with us."



Matthew 1:23

**It's a Wonderful Life:
 Trust It**

& Growing in Love



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 24, 2017*