

ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

MEETING
WHERE
JOINING **U** **R**
ON

The **JOURNEY**



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 23, 2018*

§ Denotes when to stand as you are able

WE GATHER to be NURTURED

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

Ringing of the Bell - Please use this to begin focusing for worship.

Prelude

“And The Glory Of the Lord” ~ *Handel*

“Alleluja” ~ *W.A. Mozart*

“Do You Hear What I Hear” ~ *Regney/Shayne*

“Spiritual Christmas” ~ *Arr. David Thomas*

Brass Ensemble

§ Lighting of the Advent Candle - Fourth Sunday - Love

Helen: Watch and wait for Christ’s coming!

Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,
remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle for peace.

We light this candle in joy!

We light this candle with love.

Jim: Hear again the Word of the Lord drawn from Zephaniah 3:17

“The Lord your God. . . will rejoice over you with gladness; God will quiet you with divine love like a child upon the breast. The Lord will exult you with loud singing.”

Let us pray: God of hope, God of peace,
God of joy, and God of love,

Teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world.

ALL: God of Promise, God of Hope, into our darkness come.

§ **Opening Hymn UMH #220**

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Sharing of Joys and Journeys

Rev. Calvin Culpepper

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer, UMH #895

WE ARE NURTURED by GOD'S WORD

Hymn UMH #657

“This Is the Day”

The children are invited to come forward as we sing.

Children's Message

“Advent A to Z Finished”

James L. Crow

Hymn FWS #2129, vs 1

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

§ Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-55

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

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Fantasia on Christmas Carols

Ralph Vaughan Williams

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love:
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

Come all you worthy gentlemen
that may be standing by,
Christ our blessed Saviour
was born on Christmas day.

The first thing which I will relate
Is that God did man create,
The next thing which to you I'll tell,
Woman was made with man to dwell.

The blessed Virgin Mary
unto the Lord did pray.
O we wish you the comfort
and tidings of joy!

Then, after this, 'twas God's own choice
To place them both in Paradise,
There to remain, from evil free,
Except they ate of such a tree.

Christ our Blessed Saviour now in the
manger lay—
He's lying in the manger, while the oxen
fed on hay.

And they did eat, which was a sin,
And this their ruin did begin,
Ruined themselves, both you and me,
And all of their posterity.

The blessed Virgin Mary
unto the Lord did pray.
O we wish you the comfort
and tidings of joy!

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose,
And so a promise soon did run,
That he would redeem us by his Son.

On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before thy grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

God bless our generation,
who live both far and near
And we wish them a happy New Year.

From out of darkness we have light,
Which makes the angels sing this night,
“Glory to God and peace to men.
Both now and evermore, Amen.”

*Words The truth sent from above (Herefordshire);
Come all you worthy Gentlemen (Somerset);
(1872–1958)*

*On Christmas night (Sussex);
There is a fountain (Herefordshire)*

God bless the ruler of this house
and long may he reign,
Many happy Christmases
he live to see again!

“A Medley of Faith!”
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

§ **Hymn of Sending Forth UMH #240**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

§ **Benediction**

Creator God, whose spirit in the blessed Mary evoked her song of praise, that she should bear the Savior of your people, enable us to join her in glad celebration of joy and anticipation, that we, like her in humility and devotion, may also be bearers of your word and spirit incarnate in our lives. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Amen.**

--Waldo Beach, ed., Christmas Praise: Worship Resources for the Seasons of Christmas (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991), 34

Choral Benediction

“Our Last Amen”

~ *Keveren*

Postlude

“Ode to Joy”

~ *Beethoven*

Facetime by the Big Bell

We thank the following people for helping to make this worship special:

Jack Armstrong, *Director*

Chancel Choir of Court Street UMC

Andrew Mertzenich, *Organist*

Aaron Bolden, *soloist*

Shari Ramsey, *flute*

Christine Schweitz, *violin I*

Sara Leib, *violin II*

John Meyers, *trumpet*

Ella Caswell, *viola*

Mark Nelson, *trumpet*

Janis Johnson, *cello*

Jeff Suarez, *french horn*

Dave Timmcke, *bass*

Carey Sheley, *trombone*

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Greeters: Nancy & DuWayne Stanis

Liturgist: Hannah Whitmore

Ushers: The Davis/Dienhart Team

Van Driver: Bruce Shindel

Video Tech: Steve Ripley

Acolyte: Morgan Whitmore

Facetime Hosts: Breakfast Club

Sound Tech: Stan Tunnell

MINISTRY STAFF AT COURT STREET

The Congregation

Ministers

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Pastor

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Ryanne Ludington

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Mike Smith

Evening/Weekend Security



Court Street United Methodist Church

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www.courtstreetumc.org



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

All are welcome to join us in celebrating Christ's birth!

Christmas Eve Family Service - Mon., Dec. 24 - 4:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

Candlelight Service - Mon., Dec. 24 - 9:30 p.m. - Sanctuary

The 2019 Altar Flower chart is posted outside the Church Office on the bulletin board. Sign up now to get your favorite date to honor or memorialize someone you love.

Church is Closed on Tuesday, December 25 - Merry Christmas!

Ski Outing for all Youth ~ Go with Bruce Martin on Thursday, January 3, 2019. Check the bulletin board outside the Church Office for information & permission slips. Please **respond by Wednesday, December 26th** to Ryanne Ludington cell (815) 985-4260, Dessie Voigt cell (815) 505-5263, or Bruce Martin cell (815) 985-6159.

Next Sunday, December 30th, we will be taking a special offering, United Voices for Children, to benefit ChildServ, MYSI Corp, and Rosecrance. As a network of child advocates, United Voices for Children keeps the needs of the voiceless, powerless little ones before the church and the community. You may make your check out to CSUMC, with "5th Sunday Appeal" in the memo line. We will have an envelope inserted next week for your convenience.

If you are ever here at Court Street UMC, either for a meeting or volunteering, Monday through Friday, we have permission for you to park at 2nd/1st. That way you may park and not worry about receiving a parking ticket. Just please don't park there on Sundays as they need the space for their own parishioners.

Please turn in all 2018 contributions by Monday, December 31st. Thank you!

Who has taken over the title 'Chief Hugger' here at Court Street since Dee Davis passed on to new life in 2010? Start 'practicing' your hugs on each other for Hug Day coming Sunday, January 20th.

Start saving your money for Blanket Sunday, February 3rd.

Court St. United Methodist Church at Work This Week

Sun 12/23 4th Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 am 'Not a Silent Night' Study in the Parlor**
- 9:00 Sunday School - 104, Dining Room, Balcony W**
- 10:00 Worship Service in the Sanctuary**
- 11:15 Facetime by the Big Bell**
- 11:30 'Not a Silent Night' Study in the Parlor**
- 11:30 Youth Choir in the Choir Room**
- 12:00 pm Praisin' & Prayin' Puppets in Room 302**

Mon 12/24 4:00 pm Family Christmas Worship Service in the Sanctuary
9:30 Candlelight Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Tue 12/25 - Merry Christmas! - Church is Closed

Wed 12/26 8:30 am MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103
9:30 Early Head Start in Room 100

Thu 12/27 8:30 am MAYA's House Christmas Party in the Dining Room
9:30 Early Head Start in Room 100
12:00 pm Jeremiah Executive Board in Room 209
1:00 The Journeymen in the Parlor
1:00 Chimes stuffing in the Library

Fri 12/28 8:30 am MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103
10:00 Early Head Start in Room 100
1:00 pm 'Not a Silent Night' Study
1:30 Early Head Start in Room 100

Sat 12/29

Sun 12/30 1st Sunday after Christmas Day
10:00 Worship Service in the Sanctuary
11:15 Facetime by the Big Bell

Christmas Eve at Court Street 2018

Family Worship

Monday • December 24

4:00 p.m.

Sanctuary



Candlelight Service

Monday • December 24

9:30 p.m.

Sanctuary

*We wish you and yours
a very
Blessed Christmas.*