

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

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

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

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Third Sunday

Hymn Response UMH #211, vs. 1-3

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

§ Call to Worship

Leader: For so long, we lived in blindness, not knowing our eyes were capable of sight.

All: We see you clearly now.

Leader: We lived in darkness, fear, pain, and death.

All: We see you clearly now.

Leader: You have opened our eyes to the truth.

All: We see you clearly now.

Leader: You have shown us your glory and given us salvation.

All: We see you clearly now.

Leader: We thank you for giving us sight, for illuminating our lives with your truth.

All: We see you clearly now.

§ Opening Hymn UMH # 245, vs. 1-4

“The First Noel”

Sharing of Joys and Journeys

Rev. Calvin Culpepper

Noisy Offering

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer, UMH #895

WE ARE NURTURED by GOD’S WORD

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Please refer to your Bible’s Table of Contents to locate this scripture.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Children of Eden Jr.

Presented by Fine Arts Saturday Troupe (F.A.S.T.)

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Book by John Caird • Concept by Charles Lisanby

WE RESPOND to GOD’S WORD

Offering Our Gifts and Our Selves

§ 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

Friends, live this week not seeking a sign from God but being a sign of God to your family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, classmates, and everyone you encounter along your way. For the sake of the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
Amen.

Postlude

You are invited to finish worship by listening to the Postlude.

If you wish to leave, you may do so,

leaving quietly so others may enjoy the Postlude.

Facetime by the Big Bell

We thank the following people for making today’s theatrical offering possible:

Fine Arts Saturday Troupe (F.A.S.T.)
James L. Crow, *Director of Arts Ministries*
Krysta Tilges, *Arts Ministries Assistant*
Jack Armstrong, *Director of Music*
Andrew Mertenich, *Organist*
Carter Anderson, *Lighting Design*
Samantha Helton, *Technical Assistant*



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!

The Special Advent Study Series with Pastor Cal continues today at 11:30 AM in the Parlor. This year’s study will focus on Adam Hamilton’s *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph*. Books are still available through the Church Office for \$14. The study series will hold a meeting next Sunday, December 22, at the same time and location. On the 29th, you may join Pastor Cal for the final bonus session.

Fine Arts Saturday Troupe (F.A.S.T.) will perform the entire production of *Children of Eden Jr.* at 2 PM today. This will be your last opportunity to enjoy the play. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

The final 30-Minute Worship Service of the season will be this Wednesday, Dec. 18th. Services begin at 12 PM in the Chapel.

We would like you to keep the scrip cards in mind this holiday season. They make excellent items to give as gifts or to help with your holiday purchases. And the best part is your scrip card purchases allow us to return profits to support Court Street UM Church programs. Come to the Scrip table and view our complete list of cards that can be ordered.

For December we hope you will put gloves, socks, mittens, hats, or scarves on our Mitten Tree in the Narthex. We will donate these to the Haskell Elementary School students in need. If we have extra we will donate to an agency that can distribute to their friends that are cold. *Nurture and Outreach Committee*

The next Holy COW! Potluck is Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 5:15 PM.

Please bring a place setting, a drink, and a dish to share. Then at 6 PM stay for a Blues Christmas Service.

Next Sunday we will hold a Carol Sing 20 minutes before our regular worship service. Please arrive early so that you may sing some of your favorite Christmas carols.

Christmas Eve at Court Street offers two unique services. The 4 PM service is geared towards families, while the 9:30 service is a traditional Candlelight service. The Candlelight service will begin with a 15-minute musical prelude courtesy of the Chancel Choir and Jubelation Bell Choir. Then at 9:45 PM we will hold a Service of Lessons and Carols.

The church will be closed Christmas Day (Wednesday, Dec. 25th) and New Year’s Day (Wednesday, Jan. 1st). We hope you have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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	<i>Ministers</i>	
Calvin Culpepper	<i>Pastor</i>	cculpepper@courtstreetumc.org
Ryanne Ludington	<i>Christian Education</i>	ludingtonryanne@gmail.com
James L. Crow	<i>Arts Ministries</i>	JamesCrow@courtstreetumc.org
Krysta Tilges	<i>Arts Ministries Assistant</i>	
Jack Armstrong	<i>Director of Music</i>	gogo234@att.net
Andrew Mertenich	<i>Organist</i>	andrew.mertenich@gmail.com
Teresa Field	<i>Parish Nurse</i>	TeresaField@courtstreetumc.org
Bert Cromwell	<i>Nursery</i>	
Nancy Mertenich	<i>Nursery Assistant</i>	
Verlette Gorman	<i>Co-Administrator</i>	ChurchAdmin1@courtstreetumc.org
Tiffany Wilken	<i>Pub. Secretary</i>	Communications@courtstreetumc.org
Mike Smith	<i>Maintenance Engineer</i>	Maintenance@courtstreetumc.org
Curtis Jackson	<i>Custodian</i>	



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

Greeter: Dorothy Powell **Acolyte:** Ella Anderson
Ushers: The DuWayne Stanis Team **Video Tech:** Steve Ripley
Van Driver: Dan Boon **Sound Tech:** Stan Tunnell
Facetime Hosts: The Breakfast Club

Court St. United Methodist Church at Work This Week

Sun 12/15 9:00 am Sunday School in 104, Balcony West, Library
 10:00 Worship Service in the Sanctuary
 11:15 Facetime by the Big Bell
 11:30 Advent study series with Pastor Cal, Parlor
 11:30 Youth Choir
 2:00 pm Children of Eden Performance

Mon 12/16 8:30 am MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103

Tue 12/17 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 Busy Bag Ladies in Room 205
 3:30 pm Staff Meeting in Staff Conference Room
 6:00 JuBellation in the Sanctuary
 7:00 Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary
 7:00 Grace Awakening in Room 202

Wed 12/18 8:30 am MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103
 9:30 Early Head Start in Room 100
 9:30 Deborah Circle, Donna Dow's Home
 11:30 Dorcas Circle, Rockford Country Club
 12:00 pm 30 Minute Advent Worship
 5:15 Holy COW! Potluck & Blues Christmas Service
 5:30 N. IL Wood Turners

Thu 12/19 8:30 am MAYA's House in Rooms 102 & 103
 9:30 Early Head Start in Room 100
 10:00 Painting in the Art Room 204
 1:00 pm The Journeymen in the Parlor
 2:30 Early Head Start in Room 100
 6:30 Praise Team Rehearsal, Dining Room

Fri 12/20 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

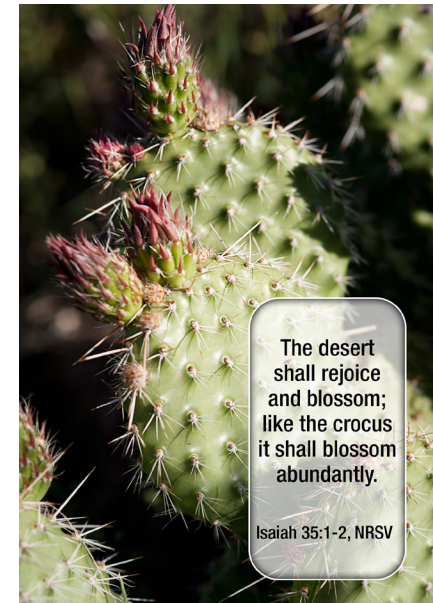
Sat 12/21 8:00 am Rockford Rhythm/Phantom Regiment 3rd Floor

Sun 12/22 9:00 am Sunday School in 104, Balcony West, Library
 9:40 Carol Sing in the Sanctuary
 10:00 Worship Service in the Sanctuary
 11:15 Facetime by the Big Bell
 11:30 Advent study series with Pastor Cal, Parlor
 11:30 Youth Choir

ORDER OF WORSHIP
 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE

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The desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly.
 Isaiah 35:1-2, NRSV

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.

*3rd Sunday of Advent
 December 15, 2019*

WELCOME!

December 15, 2019

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 _____