

A Thought for Reflection

“When it is dark enough, you can see the stars.”
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

GOD GATHERS US

PRELUDE GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN—O MERRY CHRISTMAS—O HOLY NIGHT

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.** *(We invite you to turn to your neighbors and greet them.)*

INTROIT

“CALYPSO CHRISTMAS”

NATALIE SLEETH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: What a wonder!

People: **What a joy!**

Leader: Into a world full of woe,

People: **A savior is born!**

Leader: High in the sky, in the dark of the night,

People: **A star lights the way.**

Leader: Let us join the wise ones on their journey,

People: **Let us seek the child born in a manger.**

All: **Let us worship God.**

*** HYMN OF PRAISE**

“JOY TO THE WORLD”

C-16

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND LORD’S PRAYER

(Please pray the Lord’s Prayer using the words you find most meaningful. There is a prayer card in your pew rack.)

*** SENTENCES OF PRAISE** *(Please stand for the Sentences of Praise and Gloria.)*

Leader: Let us join the angels in songs of praise!

People: **We lift our voices to give glory to God!**

*** GLORIA**

FROM “ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”

C-8

Glo- -ria in excelsis Deo, Glo- -ria in excelsis Deo!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Birther of our lives, in this time of preparing, we struggle to make time for your coming. When there are presents to get, we forget your presence among us. With so much to do, we forget the mystery of your Being and the miracle of our being avenues of your grace. Slow us down. Loosen us up. Let us laugh at ourselves more freely and love each other more generously. In the midst of the tinsel and the bustle, help us see the twinkling joy. In the name of the One whose being blesses humanity, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS**RESPONSE**

FROM NCH 122

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set all people free;

From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.

GOD MEETS US IN THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

THE CICHOWLAS-MUHS FAMILY

SONG
LITANY

“ADVENT INCANTATION”

C-2

Leader: Love. It’s such an easy word to say, and so we say it all the time.

People: We read romance novels about it;

Leader: We sing country music songs about it;

People: We exclaim that we love ice cream and pizza.

Leader: The love represented by this candle isn’t as easy as all that.

People: It’s more than a word and more than a feeling.

Leader: Love is made real in our actions.

People: We make love real through simple acts: a kind word, a helping hand.

Leader: We make love real through difficult efforts: acceptance, forgiveness.

People: As we light this candle we commit ourselves to making love real.

AN OFFERING OF MUSIC

“STAR CHILD”

CARLTON YOUNG

WORDS WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

* HYMN OF PREPARATION

“WHAT CHILD IS THIS”

C-22

(Children may go to Sunday School during the hymn.)

THE GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 2: 1-11

(Pew Bible p. 783)

ANTHEM

“BEAUTIFUL STAR OF BETHLEHEM”

MEDITATION

“UNTIL THE GLORY DAWNS”

CALL TO PRAYER

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION AND PETITION

GOD CALLS FOR OUR GIFTS

OUR OFFERING TO GOD

OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY

(Lasst uns erfreuen)

NCH 17

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Today’s Special Offering: Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

This fund is one of four Special Mission Offerings received annually by the UCC. Your generous gifts enable the Pension Board’s Ministerial Assistance program to provide help to individuals and families in need. This aid may go to a retired pastor, former youth leader, Christian education director, church secretary, custodian or minister of music. Please be as generous as your circumstances will allow.

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

* **HYMN OF DEDICATION**

“CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG”

(See insert.)

* **CHARGE**

POSTLUDE

“THE WONDER SONG”

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED...

LET OUR SERVICE BEGIN!

MINISTERS

ALL THE PEOPLE OF EDWARDS CHURCH

PASTOR

REV. DR. DEBORAH CLARK

ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR FAITH FORMATION & OUTREACH

REV. DR. KAREN NELL SMITH

COMMISSIONED MINISTER OF MUSIC

RICK SEAHOLM

ORGANIST

CHERYL ELKINS

PIANIST

SUSAN MINOR

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

NICOLA SEAHOLM

SEXTON

LORI WILSON

LITURGIST

REV. DR. FRAN BOGLE

DEACON-IN-CHARGE

DAWN SORENSEN

GREETER

JOANIE WHITE

COMPOST CAPTAIN

RONDA YEOMANS

JANIS STEIGMAN OF MOTHER’S HELPERS IS IN CHARGE OF THE NURSERY THIS MORNING.

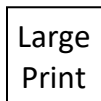


Thanks to On The Fence! We are grateful to Ric Carl, Jane and Len Ezbicki, Kelly Lopez, and George Marcincavage for leading our worship music this morning.

Welcome! No matter who you are or where you are on your life’s journey, we are glad you are here. Please join us for coffee following the service. Please sign our guestbook or fill out a welcome card.

We extend a special welcome to children and their families. The sound of children’s voices is the sound of a living church! We want children to learn and question alongside adults, and we welcome whispers, wiggles, and joyful noises of all kinds. In the entryway to the sanctuary, you will find some quiet activity boxes; please take one and have fun! Following the Hymn of Preparation, we invite all children to attend a Christian Explorers class downstairs in the Susan P. Dickerman Education Building. We have a loving, trained nursery staff available for our youngest children.

Accessibility



Available in the Narthex (front entrance hallway):

- Sound-enhancing assistive listening devices
- Large print edition of the church bulletin



- **Accessible parking** spots are marked and located near the Education Building entrance.
- **Accessible entrance** is located on the lower level of the Education Building (to the left of the Church main entrance).
- **Elevator** is located in the Education Building next to the stairs.
- **Accessible restroom** is located on the upper level of the Education Building.

This Week at Edwards Church

December 22-28, 2019

SUNDAY	9:00am	Adult Bible Study	Youth Room
	9:00am	Rental	Edwards Hall
	10:00am	Worship	Sanctuary
	10:15am	Sunday School	Education Building
	11:00am	Coffee Hour	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	12:00pm	Christmas Caroling	Meet at Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	1:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
MONDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:30am	Strength Without a Gym	Edwards Hall
	5:30pm	Cancer Support	Youth Room
	6:15pm	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:30pm	Guided Meditation	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
TUESDAY	Christmas Eve		
	9:00am	Qi Gong / Tai Chi	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	10:00am	Gentle Yoga	Edwards Hall
	10:30am	Rental	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	5:00pm	Christmas Pageant	Sanctuary
	5:30pm	Pageant Reception	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:00pm	Rental	Sanctuary
9:00pm	Candlelight Service	Sanctuary	
WEDNESDAY	Christmas Day: OFFICE CLOSED		
THURSDAY	OFFICE CLOSED		
	7:30pm	AA Meeting	Edwards Hall
FRIDAY	9:30am	Chairobics	Susan P. Dickerman Hall
	7:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall
	7:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall Classrooms
SATURDAY	10:00am	Memorial Service	Sanctuary
	4:30pm	Rental	Sanctuary
	6:00pm	Rental	Edwards Hall



Christmas Worship at Edwards Church

December 24, Christmas Eve

Please join us for worship at Edwards Church on Christmas Eve!

5:00pm "No Room at the Inn"—a Participatory Christmas Pageant

9:00pm Candlelight Service of Lessons, Carols and Poetry

Poinsettia Dedications

The poinsettias are given by:

The Aufman family in memory of Jessie Aufman

Elizabeth Baum in honor of Janet Sanders

Cindy Booth in honor of Jeannette Loughman and my family

Bruce Boulter and Mary Gillis in memory of Mary's parents

The Carl family in memory of Marty, Wally, Tom, Larry, Monica, Jill, and Doug

The Carl family in honor of all our family

Len & Jane Ezbicki in honor of our grandkids

Bill Freudenthal in memory of Florence May Sachs

Lee Ann & Tom Friedman in honor of and in memory of our Winter family and Friedman family loved ones

Chuck Greenslit in memory of Mr. Charles L. Greenslit

Peggy Harrison in memory of my loving husband Paul Harrison

Peggy Harrison in memory of my loving parents Howard & Shirley Otty

The Hart family in memory of John and our parents

Amy Hendrick & Paul Blow in memory of Joshua Spooner Hendrick

Amy Hendrick & Paul blow in memory of Sue Dickerman

Amy Hendrick & Paul Blow in memory of our parents

Pat Martin in memory of Clay, Ida, and Palma Martin

Evelyn McGuirk in memory of my husband Alexander

Andrew, Bettina, & Dora Messana in memory of Carlotta Messana

Andrew, Bettina, & Dora Messana in memory of Frank & Providenza Messana

Andrew, Bettina, & Dora Messana in memory of Walter & Nennele Bernhardt

Judith Pugach in honor of Janet Sanders

Deborah Roy in memory of David Roy

Janet Sanders in memory of Mildred Gebron

The Seaholms in memory of Kathie Crawley and Orlena Allison

The Seaholms in honor of the Edwards Church Choir

Richard & Judith Sebastian in memory of Gene, Bob, Guy, and Ryan Sebastian

Richard & Judith Sebastian in memory of her brother, Phillip Johnson

Karen Nell Smith in memory of Alice Ann Smith Mahoney

Karen Nell Smith in memory of Robert E. Smith

The Stewart-Morales family in memory of Grace Sapino

The Stewart-Morales family in memory of Doris Stewart

The Stewart-Morales family in memory of Charles Stewart

The Stewart-Morales family in memory of Tina Stewart

The Stewart-Morales family in memory of Ann LaMotte

The Stewart-Morales family in memory of Aida Morales

The Stewart-Morales family in memory of Julio Morales

The Stewart-Morales family in memory of Mauricia Aguirre

The Stewart-Morales family in memory of Jorge Aguirre

The Stewart-Morales family in memory of Erwin Aguirre

Poinsettia Dedications

The poinsettias are given by:

The Tanner-Rousseau family in memory of Sherry Rousseau, Albert & Olive Rousseau, and Charles Hurd

The Tanner-Rousseau family in memory of Edward & Elaine Garrow

Matt Walker in memory of Mom, Dad, and all before them who made me possible

Matt Walker in honor of all the amazing people in the Edwards community

Buddy & Bernice Wilson in memory of Anne & Bernard Orrill

Buddy & Bernice Wilson in memory of Milt & Pearl Wilson

Linda Yates in honor of Sandra Negus

Linda Yates in memory of Alan Yates

Linda Yates in memory of Marilyn Yates

Linda Yates in memory of Steven Yates

The Chancel Committee extends a special thank-you to those who contributed poinsettias.

Holiday Happenings

Christmas Caroling: *TODAY following worship and a light lunch (around noon)*

Join us as we visit several members of our church in their individual homes and assisted living settings. We will have a brief lunch after worship before heading out to sing. Please let Debbie know if you would like to participate.

Christmas Pageant for Children of All Ages!

On Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m., the sanctuary will again be filled with the usual suspects—angels, shepherds and wise men—as we retell the story of the birth of Jesus. This year, our spontaneous pageant imagines some others who were likely the very first to witness the blessed event that night in Bethlehem so long ago. Come join us as we light the Christmas candle, sing beloved carols, and bring to life this ancient sacred story in a new and creative way. Come to celebrate the coming of love into our lives!

In the name of God and Jesus Christ, Edwards Church, a congregation of the United Church of Christ, welcomes all who seek to know and worship God. We invite everyone to join in our faith journey and participate in our congregational life.

As a community of faith we take seriously the Biblical call to love God and our neighbors as ourselves, and recognize that although we are many members we are one. We celebrate the uniqueness of everyone. We rejoice in our diversity of views and understanding of our shared faith. We commit ourselves to work diligently to help end oppression and discrimination. We affirm all relationships founded on the principle of God's love and justice.

We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation. Seeking to be the Body of Christ, we welcome into full fellowship and membership all persons of every race, language, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical or cognitive ability, and economic status.



Please Sing Along!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.

Christ by highest heaven adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail, the incarnate deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Son of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more shall die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn king.



Deck the Halls

Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
'Tis the season to be jolly,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Don we now our gay apparel,
Fa la la, la la la, la la la.
Troll the ancient Christmas Carol,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.

See the blazing Yule before us,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Strike the harp and join the chorus,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Follow me in merry measure,
Fa la la, la la la, la la la.
While I tell of Yuletide treasure,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Fast away the old year passes,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Sing we joyous, all together,
Fa la la, la la la, la la la.
Heedless of the wind and weather,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year!

Good tidings we bring
To you and your kin,
Good tidings for Christmas
And a happy new year!
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year