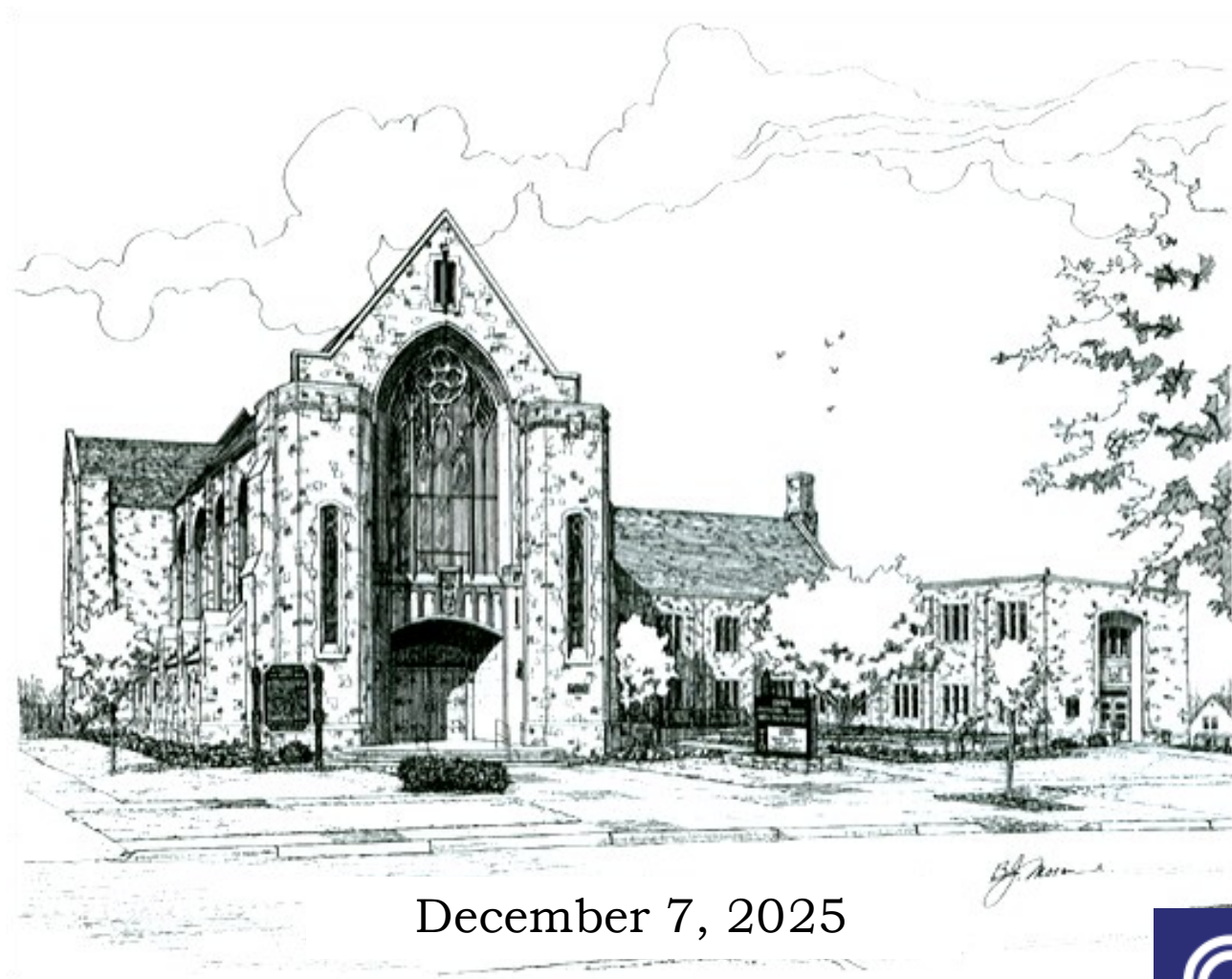


# Union Congregational United Church of Christ



At Union, we are all the body of Christ together:  
Through our voices, Christ is still speaking  
Through our hands, Christ is still serving  
Through our hearts, Christ is still loving



December 7, 2025

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Our sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. You can access the loop by activating the T-coil in your hearing aid. If you do not have a T-coil, you can request a portable receiver from an usher.

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# Welcome to Union Church!

- Today's service is being live streamed via Facebook and YouTube.
  - During the Children's Moments, the live stream will display a graphic, in order to protect our children's privacy.
  - Please see an usher if you would like a children's activity packet or if you need help finding the nursery.
  - Visitors are encouraged to fill out a visitor card at the usher's station or email [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com) to receive our weekly email newsletter.
  - Visitors, if you would like more information about our church, please take home a yellow "Welcome to Union Church" folder located at either sanctuary door. If you have trouble finding them, ask one of our friendly members to help you locate one!
  - We encourage those who are COVID positive or have cold or flu symptoms to worship from home and to consult with your healthcare provider to ensure you are engaging in best practices regarding masking, distancing, and receiving vaccines/boosters, particularly if you or someone you live with have health concerns.
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## Our Christmas Party is December 19

Celebrate Christmas with Union this holiday season. Join us on December 19 (5 to 8 p.m.) for a family friendly night of community, kids crafts, movies, dancing, and dinner in the church hall. All are welcome. Please RSVP using the sign-up sheet at Union Central by December 14.

Additionally, the Christmas committee is seeking donations of two artificial Christmas trees between 6 and 7.5 feet to decorate the hall. Donations may be dropped off in the coat room or contact Brittany Hendrix Malone at [Brittanyanne1001@gmail.com](mailto:Brittanyanne1001@gmail.com) for pick-up service.

## Christmas Day Souper Cooks

Our next Souper Cooks opportunity is December 25 – Christmas Day! Might your holiday be enhanced by serving in this meaningful way? Souper Cooks is a group of volunteers that prepares (1:00 p.m.) and serves (4:45 p.m.) at the NEW Community Shelter on Mather Street. Cooking usually takes one hour, and serving takes a little over an hour. You choose whether you would like to cook, serve, or do both. No training is needed; simply be ready to lend a helping hand. You are guaranteed to feel as if you have made a difference – because you have.

Learn more via the Outreach Opportunities cards in the church hall. Contact Marty Berry at [mjpberry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mjpberry@sbcglobal.net) or Achim Seifert at [seif409@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seif409@sbcglobal.net) to volunteer.

# *Serving Christ . . . Loving Each . . . Affirming All*

## **Second Sunday of Advent**

December 7, 2025

10:00 a.m.

### **GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

(\*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE: *"Burleigh: My Lord, What a Morning"* arr. Richard Billingham  
With music and silence we begin worship, praying quietly and opening our hearts to God.

### THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY

Welcome! Please share Announcements, Ministry Opportunities, Joys and Concerns.

### **PRAISING OUR GOD**

#### THE BOND OF UNION (in unison)

***Giving our all as we have been given all...***

**We accept the religion of love and service which Jesus lived and taught, and declare it our purpose to strive to do the will of God, and to make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives and in all human relations.**

#### \* ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:

*"Come Hope"*

Amanda Udis-Kessler

1  
Come hope to our deep des-pair. Come peace in a time of war. Come

2  
Come hope to our deep despair. — Come peace in a time of war.

3  
Come hope. Come peace

5  
1  
joy to a world of pain. Come love. Bring us home a - gain.

2  
Come joy to a world of pain. Come love. Bring us home a - gain.

3  
Come joy. Come love.

Leader: Last week, we lit the candle of Hope. Today we kindle Peace. Not the peace of quietism or compliance, but the peace that interrupts, rearranges, and realigns.

**All: This Peace rises from wonder that refuses to look away.**

Leader: John the Baptist cried out in the wilderness, not to frighten us, but to awaken us—to startle us into noticing what is possible when we prepare room for a different world.

**All: His wildness is a kind of wonder, calling us toward change.**

Leader: The Peace of God-With-Us grows when we allow awe to reorder our priorities—when wonder loosens our grip on old assumptions and leads us into repair, connection, and shared liberation.

**All: Peace begins when we are willing to be transformed.**

Leader: We light this candle of Peace, the peace that emerges when wonder becomes action, when changed hearts lead to changed systems, when we follow the cry from the wilderness toward a more just way.

**All: May Peace be birthed among, within, and through us this Advent. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.**

**All Sing Refrain Again (see previous page)**

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** (in unison)

**Holy God, we confess the times our desires for personal gain sometimes come at the expense of others; the times we regard unfamiliar people as threats to our safety, the times we fear the poor, that their fate may become ours; the times we feel helpless to confront powers that oppress our neighbors (and thereby ourselves), some in our own community; the times we place our personal salvation ahead of all others; the ways we have forgotten God’s desire to save the entire world, not just our personal space. God of grace and mercy and healing and hope, we ask forgiveness for our fears and shortsightedness. Amen.**

**\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON:** (in unison)

**Help us hear Isaiah’s words that it is not too late, Everloving God. New growth from old stumps; a branch rising from buried, gnarly roots. The prophets call not for our demise for our faults, but new growth, similar to pruning what we no longer need. Isaiah and John the Baptist both want us to prepare for a new life, much as we would clean house for an important guest. With their assurance, may we be renewed to the holy life of righteousness and justice. Amen.**

**\* PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST**

**\* HYMN NO. 107:**

*“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”*

(see page 6)

REJOICE, REJOICE  
The New Century Hymnal

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

### HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 11:1-10

p. 640

### CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Children are invited to gather on the chancel steps and bring their offering.

Following Children's Moments, all children are welcome to remain in worship.

Additionally, parents are welcome to accompany their children to our "playground" in the south transept to play and pray quietly or to drop them off downstairs to play in the nursery with our paid nursery staff. Activity bags with crayons, etc. are available from an usher.

### SPECIAL MUSIC:

*"Let There Be Peace on Earth"*

Jay Althouse

### GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 3:1-12

p. 2

### THE SERMON:

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

### HYMN NO. 103:

*"Watcher, Tell Us of the Night"*  
(see page 7)

ABERYSTWYTH  
The New Century Hymnal

### THE OFFERING

Offertory:

*"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

arr. Thomas Keesecker

\*Praise Response:

*"We Give You But Your Own"*

Text: William W. How, 1864; alt. Music: Cantica Laudis, Lowell Mason and G. J. Webb, 1850

We give you but your own, what - e'er the gift may be;

All that we have is yours a - lone, we give it grate-ful - ly.

CONGREGATIONAL SANCTUS:

*"Santo, Santo, Santo"*

anonymous, Argentina

¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zón te sa - be de-cir: san - to e - res Dios.  
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

**CELEBRATING COMMUNION**

THE INVITATION

- L. The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. Come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more;
- All. **You who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time, if ever.**
- L. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have fallen short.
- All. **Come, all who seek to follow Christ's way. It is Christ who offers to encounter us here.**

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

- L. The Lord be with you.
- P. **And also with you.**
- L. Lift up your hearts!
- P. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
- L. Let us give thanks to God Most High.
- P. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion servers will pass trays of bread, red wine, and white grape juice through the pews. Please let an usher know if you would prefer to commune with the prepackaged Communion elements, and they will bring one to you. Please hold the bread and cup until all are served so that we may commune together. Gluten-free bread is in the paper cup in the center of the tray.

The host at this table is Jesus Christ. In Christ's name and spirit, we invite all to partake of God's grace. Children may participate according to their parents' wishes.

## PRAYERS OF CONSECRATION, OF THE PEOPLE, AND OF OUR LORD

Please join us in praying the Lord's Prayer in these words or a translation meaningful to you.

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

**We thank you, Ancient One, for this holy meal and for wisdom spoken throughout the ages. Isaiah and John the Baptist called for repentance, giving us hope, not shame. As we let go of our material desires and ambitions, may we make room for peace. We will join in a world where natural enemies rest side by side, and children play with abandon. We will bring the kingdom here on earth. We are eternally grateful for your guidance. Amen.**

## **SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD**

### \*HYMN:

*"People, Look East"*  
(see page 8)

BESANCON

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE:

*"The Ash Grove"*

Anna Krentz Organ

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Wendy Woodward**.

## **Christmas Fund Offering is Next Sunday, December 14**

The Christmas Fund Offering provides financial assistance to retired and active UCC ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses. Please consider giving to our UCC church family.

If contributing by check, make out your check to Union Church and indicate Christmas Fund in the memo line. You may also give electronically at [unionucc.com](http://unionucc.com). Your gift will be included on your annual giving statement. Thank you.

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License # A-736814. All rights reserved.



## Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9.

Marty Haugen, 1983

Marty Haugen, 1983; rev. 1993

Isa. 12:6; 26:9; 35:6; Matt. 11:5

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In deep - est night Christ's com - ing shall be, when

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so

Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing  
 One with - out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in

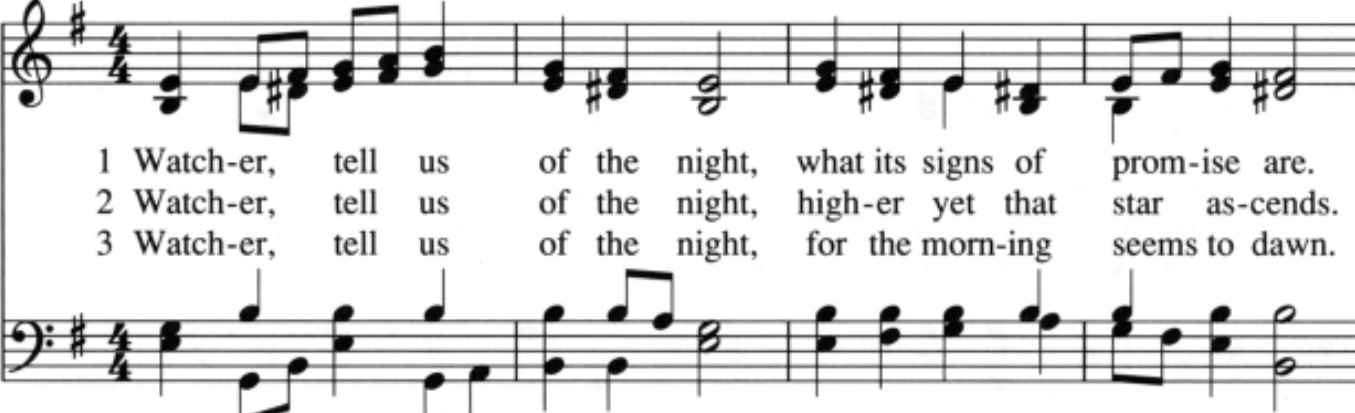
geth - er, to o - pen wide the heav - en - ly door, and  
 kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to  
 won - der, the weak are raised a - bove the strong, and

lives now in - side us for ev - er. . . .  
 shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice. . . .  
 weap - ons are bro - ken a - sun - der. . . .

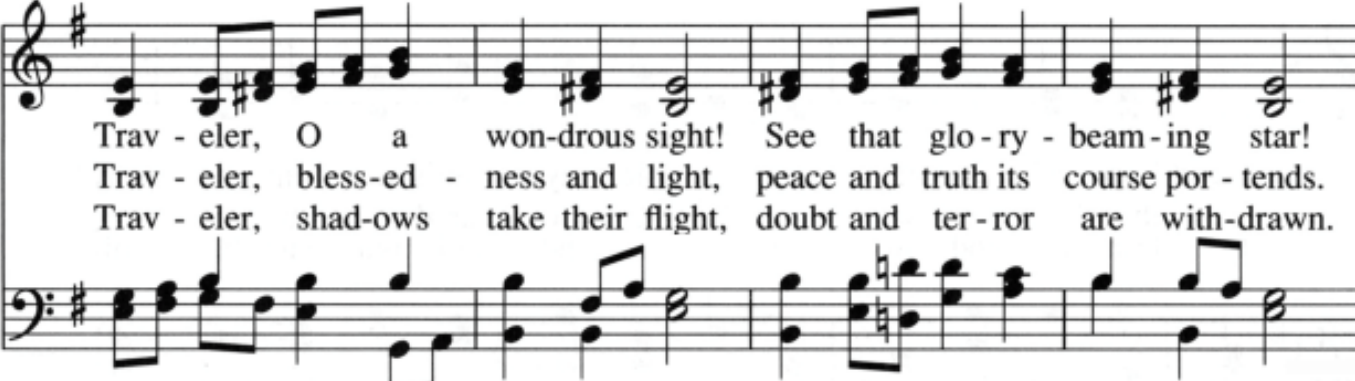


## Watcher, Tell Us of the Night

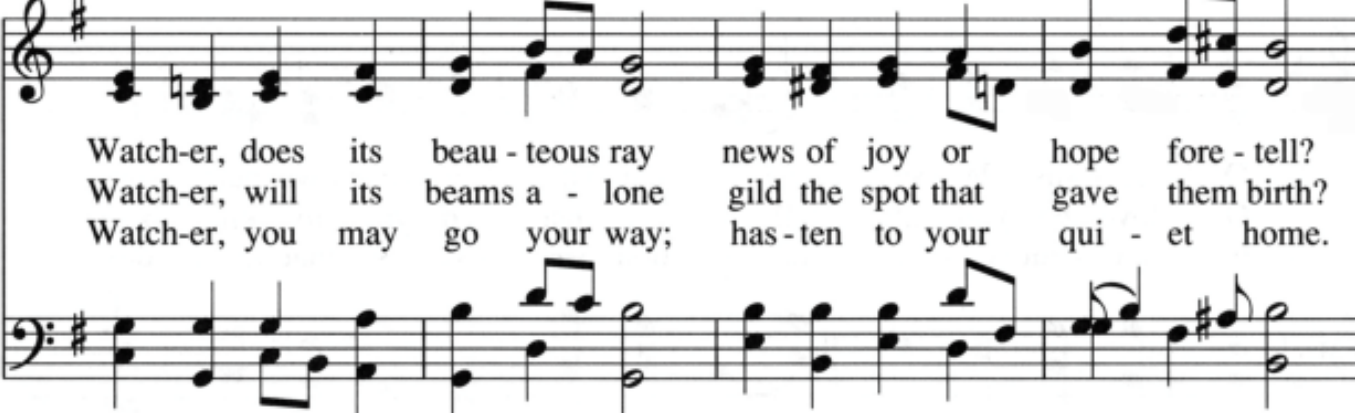
John Bowring, 1825; alt.



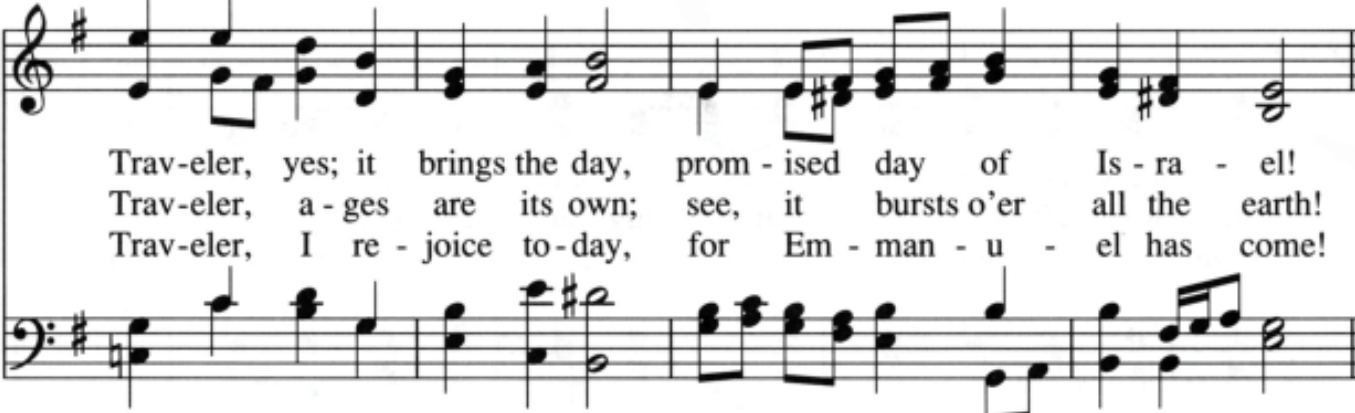
1 Watch-er, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.  
 2 Watch-er, tell us of the night, high-er yet that star as-cends.  
 3 Watch-er, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.



Trav-eler, O a won-drous sight! See that glo-ry - beam-ing star!  
 Trav-eler, bless-ed - ness and light, peace and truth its course por - tends.  
 Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight, doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.



Watch-er, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore - tell?  
 Watch-er, will its beams a - lone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
 Watch-er, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui - et home.



Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra - el!  
 Trav-eler, a - ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth!  
 Trav-eler, I re-joice to-day, for Em-man-u - el has come!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965, © David Higham Assoc. Ltd.

Tune: BESANCON, 87 98 87; French Traditional;

harm. by Martin Shaw, 1875-1958. © Oxford University Press

# People, Look East



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near  
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
5. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth



Of the crown - ing of the year.  
Guard the nest that must be filled.  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Him who brings new life to earth.



Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen  
Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
He for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.  
Bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
With the word, the Lord is com - ing.



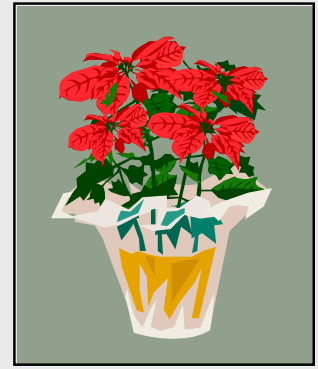
Peo - ple look East and sing to - day:



Love the Guest is on the way.  
Love the Bird is on the way.  
Love the Star is on the way.  
Love the Lord is on the way.

# Christmas Altar

All are invited to join in contributing toward the poinsettias and other accouterments we will be purchasing to prepare our altar and sanctuary for the Christmas season. The average cost of the poinsettias is \$25; any size gift is greatly appreciated. If you wish to contribute, please fill out this form and return it to the church office **by Monday, December 15.**



## Poinsettia Contribution

I/we would like to contribute for the Christmas altar.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Dedication for the Bulletin

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## Our Christmas Pageant is December 21



Sign up at Union Central

### Rehearsal — Saturday, December 20

9:00 a.m. Costume Distribution & Readers

9:45 a.m. Pageant Walk-Through

(rehearsal should be finished by 11 a.m.)

### Pageant — Sunday, December 21

8:30 a.m. Costumes & Rehearsal

(sweet rolls & juice available for the cast)

10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant

## Weekly Planner

December 8 — 13

### **Tuesday:**

4:00 p.m. Education Ministry  
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

### **Wednesday:**

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

### **Thursday:**

5:00 p.m. Membership Ministry  
6:00 p.m. Common Ministry

### **Friday:**

2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Tree & Wreath Sale

### **Saturday:**

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tree & Wreath Sale

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### **NEXT SUNDAY: December 14** **Third Sunday of Advent**

**9:00 a.m. Faith Formation**

**10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
(or stream it online)  
followed by Coffee Hour  
in the church hall**

**11:15 a.m.  
Tree and Wreath  
Sale**

**Union's Christmas Pageant is  
Sunday, December 21**

## Union Congregational United Church of Christ

Union Congregational United Church of Christ is an **Open and Affirming Congregation**. We are a Christian fellowship where diverse perspectives may live together in the Spirit of Christ and where all persons are precious children of God without qualification or discrimination because of ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, or sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

e-mail: [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com)

church office: 920-437-9266

website: [www.unionucc.com](http://www.unionucc.com)

### **Ladies Lunch Bunch**

**Meets December 15**

**Join us at 11:30 a.m.  
at the Village Grille in Allouez**

## Our Church Staff

Senior Minister..... Bridget Flad Daniels  
Administrative Assistant..... Eric Goska  
Financial Secretary..... Katrina Catteruccia  
Building & Maintenance Supervisor..... Brad Dorin  
Music Director..... Haley Steele  
Organist..... Franklin Beyer  
Handbell Ensemble Director..... Linda Cook  
Librarian..... Cathy Putman  
AV Coordinator ..... Daniel Hatton

### **Student Music Interns:**

Zeke Fietsch-Huber, Caleb Hale,  
Caitlyn Kolter, Ella Hamilton

### **Nursery Attendants:**

Jenna Stevens, London Graham, Katelyn Mertens, Scott Nixon