

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

- Sunday, Dec. 13: Third Sunday in Advent**
9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
12 noon Congregational Meeting after worship
4:30 p.m. Tanya Rodriguez Music Recital
8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
- Monday, Dec.14:
11 a.m. Prayer Group
3-7 p.m. Cello Lessons in Carmack Room
7 p.m. Mary Magdalene Christmas Party
7 p.m. Administration Meeting (if needed)
- Tuesday, Dec. 15:
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
8 p.m. AA/ALANON
- Wednesday, Dec. 16:
7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal
- Thursday, Dec. 17:
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
12 noon Retired Teachers
Montgomery Place
- Saturday, Dec.19:
10 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal
10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
- Sunday, Dec. 21: Fourth Sunday in Advent**
9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
Christmas Pageant in Worship
12 noon **Congregational Potluck Meal**
8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous



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Isaiah 12

You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me.

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Luke 3: 7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Prayer Joys and Concerns for Church and Community

- **Mary Frances Early** asks for prayers for **Minnie Haynes** as she undergoes another medical procedure on Dec. 9th, which was successful. Praise God!
- **Steve** and **Nancy Oliver** request prayers for healing and prayers for his medical team for Steve Oliver's back surgery on Monday, December 7th. Update: surgery was successful! Praise God!
- **Wiley** and **Danl** express, "Praise God for Healing. **Danl** is going in for surgery on Dec. 24th at 1:30 p.m."
- **Jeff Carroll** wrote, "I am thankful for my loving church family! I have increased health daily with Christ's love."
- **Karleeyah Columbus** says, "Happy, Happy, Happy Christmas to all the people."
- **Elaine Alsobrook** shares, "That her friend **Hal Watkins** passed this week. **Hal** was former CEO of the Board of Church Extension."
- **Lily Delk** asks for prayer for **Cheryl Delk**. Also, gives thanks for all your prayers. She is still not driving so it will be awhile before she is back.
- **Quinn Stevenson** requests continued healing for all of us, the nation, the planet, and the universe. And so it is.
- **Betty Brewer-Calvert** requests prayer for students, teachers and staff entering the final days and weeks of the semester - for health, stamina, patience, and kindness.
- Please lift up **Harriet Grayson**, who is awaiting a heart transplant. We met her granddaughter **Cara** during the Christmas Tree Sale.
- **Julie Fleming** asks for traveling mercies. Prayers for her dad's peace and comfort. Thank you.
- **Rich Spillane** asks for a prayer of thanks for safe travel to Reading, PA and back (only a fender bender).
- **Deb Almauhy** asks for continued prayer for their daughter's visa and for her husband's health and safety in Iraq.
- **Emily Anderson** asks for prayer for her family and her healing.
- **Lillie Sapp** has a praise: she is wearing shoes for the first time since June 26th. **Lillie** asks for continued prayer for her son-in-law **Nicholas Jordan** for employment. He is very stressed.
- **Helen** and **Janice Huyler** ask for prayers for their brother-in-law **Willie Cooper** who has been diagnosed with a terminal illness.
- **Sandra Brundage** expresses, "Thank you for your prayers for her son **Napoleon Allen** and her cousin **Paulette Young**. They are getting better.
- **Lee Stanley** has been diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus. Please pray for him.
- **Hank Ferry** is recovering from neck surgery.

- We continue to lift up **Furat** and **Deb Almauhy**, **Johnnie Barber**, **Jeffery Carroll**, **Kevin Castelow**, **Elizabeth Cunningham**, the **Delk Family**, **Willie Mae Durr**, **Sylvia Ennis**, **Hank Ferry**, **Shannen Ferry**, **J.D. Fleming**, **Mary Ellen Fountain**, **Sylvia and Fred Gibbs**, **Alida Gines**, **Julia Glenn Carter**, **Adei Grenpastures**, **Robert Hamilton**, **Clara Holley**, **Jackie Hudson** and daughter **Alexis**, **Jackson Family**, **Nicolas Jordan**, **The Kidd Family**, **Jay Love**, **Judy McMahan**, **Alan Merritt**, **Don Middour**, **Rev.Carolynn Miller**, **Lynn Nabers**, the **Norton Family**, the **Smith Farrell family**, **Kim Stanley**, **Lee Stanley**, **Austin Swartz**, **Carlene Trapp**, **Mildred Trott**, **Carol Wheeler**, **Nancy Williamson**, **Betty Young** and **Ellen Young**.

Liturgy for the Lighting of the Joy Candle on the Advent Wreath

Liturgists: Joonna and Lynn Trapp

One: We light again the first two candles in our Advent wreath to remind us of God's gifts of hope and peace.

(The Hope and Peace candles are lit)

Today we light the third candle -- the pink one -- representing joy. The book of Isaiah describes the joy that will come with the dawning of Shalom. The broken hearted will be healed, the captives released, grief will turn to gladness, and justice will come to all the people!

Many: **Jesus came to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind, and release to the captives. We light this candle in joy and thanksgiving for the gift of Jesus who sets us free!**

(The Joy candle is lit.)

Prayer: **O God, help us to remember that true joy comes when the lowly are lifted up, the hungry are filled with good things, and relationships are restored. May your love flow through us out into the world and give birth to great joy. Amen.**

All Sing: "When God Is a Child" (verse 3)

*Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
Telling the word that the Savior is born.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.*