



Avery Roth & Ella Yoder

**Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together**



*Couples Small Group Christmas Party*

Welcome to



**ST. JOHN'S  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH**

**“The Church on  
the Corner Whose  
Cornerstone is Christ”**

*We are a community of faith founded upon God's Holy Word, preaching salvation through believing in Christ as Savior. We seek to live in God's truth, being obedient to His Word and following in His ways.*

## Welcome to our Worship of God!

### Second Sunday of Advent - 47th Sermon In Music

Lighting of the Altar Candles and Ringing of the Tower Bells

Prelude

Emma Nafziger

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

Welcome, Scripture and Prayer of Invocation

Malachi 3:1-4 (p. 950)

The Nativity Scene – The Stable – #157, verse 1

“Away in a Manger”

† Call to Worship

L: Today we turn to God.

**P: Lord, have mercy on us!**

L: The Kingdom of Heaven is near.

**P: Lord, help us to spread the good news!**

† Unison Prayer of Confession – *Merciful God, though your prophets still call out to us, millennia later, we still don't change our lives. As John the Baptist shouts to the people, “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near!”*, we know that you are here, and still we don't change. Still we don't hear the cries of the needy, still don't prioritize serving the poor, and still we refuse to meet the needs of those who are truly hungry and thirsty around us. And yet, merciful God, you still count on us to carry out your mission, you still encourage us to follow you, you still are near. Help us, Lord, as we seek your way. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – The Candle of Prophecy

L: John called on God's people to repent, for the Messiah was near. The people had prayed for it, yet they didn't see the one they had been waiting for was truly among them. That prophecy was being fulfilled in their midst. This morning, we light the Candle of Prophecy.

**P: Let this flame remind us that while we wait for the Lord, truly the Lord is already here. Hope is here. Love is here. Family is here.**

Children's Message

(#82, verse 1)

“O Come, Let Us Adore Him”

† Carol of Worship – #124

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

“The Birth of a King”

Reader 1 – Wait on the Lord! Be of good courage! The Lord is good to those who seek Him and wait quietly for His salvation.

Reader 2 – We wait for the Lord and find hope in His Word. We look to the Lord and find strength in the God of our salvation.

Reader 3 – Prepare the way of the Lord! In the desert, prepare a highway for our God.

Reader 4 – A highway will be there, and it will be called the Holy Way. By this road, the ransomed of the Lord will return to Zion with singing and everlasting joy.

**Congregation – We wait for the God of our Salvation; God will hear our prayers.**

Chancel Choir

“Waiting for a King”

Reader 1 – Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying:

Reader 2 – Mary will bring forth a child, conceived from the Holy Spirit. And you will name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Reader 3 – All this was done to fulfill that which their Lord promised through the prophet Isaiah:

Reader 4 – Behold, a virgin will conceive and bear a son, and they will call Him “Emmanuel,” which means, “God with us.”

**Congregation – We wait for the God of our Salvation; we will call Him “Emmanuel.”**

Chancel Choir "Waiting for the Promise"  
Reader 1 – The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
Reader 2 – Those who lived in a land of the shadow of death, upon them light has shined.  
Reader 3 – O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, though you are little among the many clans of Judah,  
from you shall come the One who is to be Ruler of Israel.  
Reader 4 – He will feed His flock in the strength of the Lord. And this One will bring peace.  
**Congregation – We wait for the God of our Salvation; this One will bring peace.**

Chancel Choir "Fit for a King"  
Reader 1 – For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given.  
Reader 2 – And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
Reader 3 – And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.  
Reader 4 – Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of  
David and over His kingdom.  
**Congregation – We have seen a great light and have come to worship the God of our Salvation,  
born a Child and yet a King.**

Chancel Choir "The Birthday of a King"  
Congregation to join the choir in singing:  
**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above.  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.**

Advent Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)  
Solo Norm Fether "The Lion of Judah"  
Saxophone Trio Logan Grime, Kaiden Keiser, Kenny Walker "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

Scripture Reading Luke 2:13-14 (p. 1014)  
Advent Message "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

†The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

†Closing Carol – #133

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

†Spoken Benediction

†Benediction in Song – #134

"Emmanuel"

†Postlude

### **This Week's Congregational Prayer:**

I thank you, Lord Jesus, for opening the way to salvation, through your obedience to your Father's way of the cross, and through the power of your resurrection. I confess my sin to you, Lord, and I pray for your Spirit's power to fill me with strength as I repent, as I turn from sin and turn to you. May my life and witness be a testimony of your love and grace, a testimony that reaches the hearts of people, to bring glory to you. Amen.



## Guests and Visitors

Welcome to our worship of God! We hope you will find our service to be an uplifting and faithful time of worship and that you will worship with us again. Learn more about us by visiting our Welcome Table outside of the chapel or at [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org).

### **Mother's Room / Diaper Changing Station / Nursery Care**

We have a Mother's Room near our sanctuary – ask an usher for its location. A diaper changing station is in our nursery room just down the hallway from our sanctuary. Nursery Care is offered during our 10:30 worship service for infants and pre-kindergarten children.

**Children's and Large Print Bulletins** are available on a table in the sanctuary narthex.

**Hearing Assistance** is provided by our system for hearing aids with a "t" switch position.

## **2018 Children's Christmas Program – The Incredible Christmas!**

This year's program will be held during the 10:30AM service next Sunday, December 16th. The remaining rehearsal schedule looks like this: First through Sixth Grade Classes



This morning – 9:15AM to 10:00AM – in the chapel

Wednesday, December 12th – 6:30PM to 7:15PM – in the sanctuary

Sunday, December 16th – 9:15AM to 10:00AM – in the sanctuary

### **The Advent Wreath**

The Advent wreath is created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are nestled in the evergreen wreath. There are varying traditions about the meanings of the Advent candles. In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in Advent, are used with one white candle in the middle as the Christ candle. Other churches prefer three purple or blue candles with one candle being rose or pink, to represent joy. During each Sunday of the Advent season, the focus may be on one of the four virtues Jesus brings: hope, love, joy and peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world. The order and exact wording vary among churches, but the wreath continually reminds us of whom we are called to be as followers of Jesus.

Traditionally at St. John's, the candles have symbolized the four virtues of Jesus – hope, love, joy and peace. This year, we are combing a few of the traditions stemming from a new resource used to guide our Advent worship. The four candles will be the candle of expectation, the candle of prophecy, the candle of hope, and the candle of joy.

***December Mission-A-Month – Crossroad***

## **WEEK OF DEC 9th AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Sun	8:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15AM	Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal – 1st through 6th Grades (Chapel)
	9:15AM	Confirmation / Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship Service/Sermon in Music (Sanctuary)
	6:00PM	Seekers (Foote's)
Mon	11:00AM	Staff Meeting (Office Closed)
	7:00PM	Praise Band Practice
Tues	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
	4:00PM	Laundry Buddy Ministry
	5:00PM	Community Meal @ Zion Mennonite (St. John's Meal Team Hosting)
	7:00PM	Discernment Team (Fireside Room)
	7:00PM	Property Committee (Chapel)
Wed	8:30AM	Moms in Prayer (Classroom Upstairs)
	9:00AM	Bible Study at West Haven
	6:30PM	1st - 6th Grade Children for Christmas Program Practice (Sanctuary)
	7:00PM	Life Planning (Chapel)
Thurs	9:00AM	Mending @ Fairlawn
	5:30PM	Senior Christmas Dinner (Chapel)
	7:00PM	Evangelism Committee (Fireside Room)
Sat	10:00AM	5th Grade Boys Basketball Practice (Parish Hall)
	2:00PM	Private Party (Parish Hall)
Sun	8:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15AM	Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	9:15AM	Confirmation / Faith Village / Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship Service featuring Children's Christmas Program (Sanctuary)

### **Next Sunday – December 16, Third Sunday of Advent**

Sermon – “Hope in the King” by Pastor Alex Young

Scripture – Matthew 11:2-11

**Discovery\*** is a daily Bible reading guide that provides clear Bible explanation, prayers and relevant application questions. You can access the guide online at <http://www.scriptureunion.org/Bible%20Reading/Discovery>. Below is the list of daily readings for this week:

December 10 - Fashion and Faith.....	Colossians 3:12-17
December 11 - Everyday People.....	Colossians 3:18-4:1
December 12 - Rocks And Hard Places.....	Colossians 4:2-6
December 13 - It's A Wonderful Life.....	Colossians 4:7-18
December 14 - Family Likeness.....	Philemon 1-7
December 15 - More Than a Slave.....	Philemon 8-25
December 16 - Great David's Greater Son.....	Psalms 132

# Let's Talk About It - This Week in Our Children's and Youth Education:

**Senior High Sunday School:** We thank our guest teacher today, Karen Walker, for her willingness to serve. Our lesson comes from Genesis 39, focusing on how God uses Joseph's circumstances and sufferings to accomplish His plans and purposes. As we face our week, we have encouragement knowing God never abandons His people.

## 2018 Advent Booklet

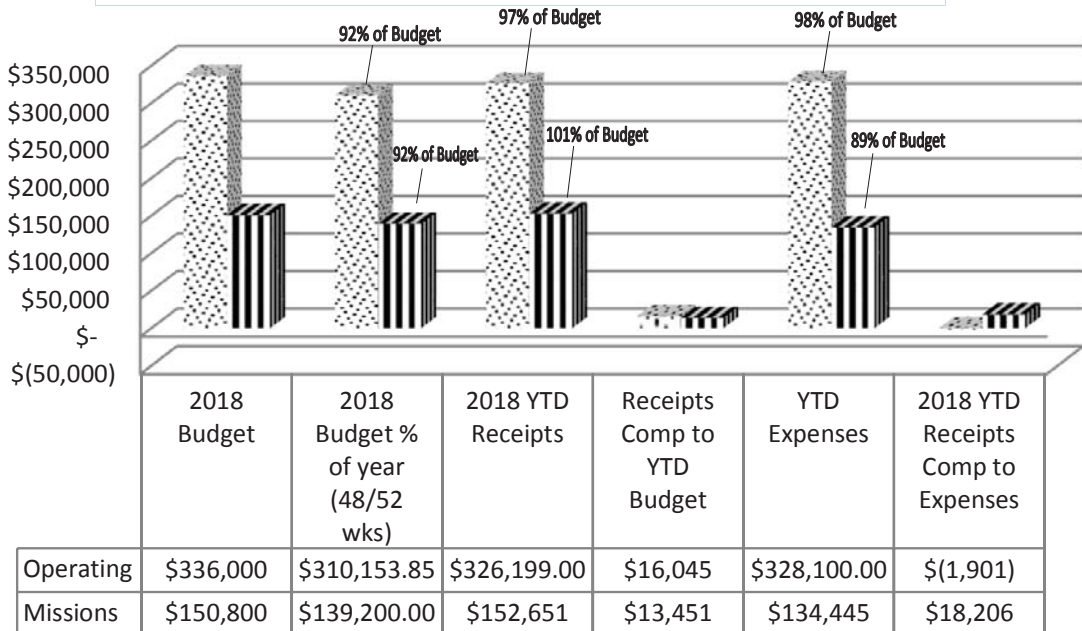
Copies are available on a table in the sanctuary narthex. A digital copy of the booklet is posted on the home page of our web site, under the "Upcoming Events" section.

**Mending at Fairlawn** - December is our month to help with the mending needs of residents at Fairlawn (Thursdays from 9AM to noon in the Activities Room). Please contact Elaine Winzeler at 419-446-2200 if you have questions.

**Senior Citizens Annual Christmas Dinner** - Senior citizens, mark your calendars for Thurs., Dec. 13th at 5:30PM for the annual Christmas Dinner! Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office by today. A free will offering will be collected at the door.

Due to Nick's resignation we are in need of someone to fill the custodian position 12 hours per week. Days and times have some flexibility. Please submit your interest in this position with a resume to the church office and it will be forwarded to the Personnel Committee.

**2018 Operating & Missions Funds as of December 3, 2018**



**IYF Building Campaign Total Receipts as of December 3, 2018 - \$635,789.70**

## **Missionaries Supported by Our Congregation**

- ✚ Africa – Tom & Megan – The Islands – pray for justice and peace as issues with civil unrest linger; pray for further opportunities to share the gospel and go deeper; pray for commitment, desire and courage for islanders to study the Bible together; pray for additional team members.
- ✚ Akron – David Hench – Reliant at Akron U – thank the Lord for David’s time with us on November 11th, and pray that David continues to be supported through prayer and funding so can continue to focus on meeting and ministering to students on campus.
- ✚ Ann Arbor – Kyle Chase – Reliant Mission at U of Michigan – thank the Lord for Kyle’s time with us on November 11th, and pray for his strength as Kyle continues to be wise and courageous in preaching the gospel and coordinating the campus church.
- ✚ Bowling Green – Robert & Jenni McMahan – Cru at BGSU – thank the Lord for Robert & Jenni’s time with us on November 11th, and pray that the encouragement they received undergirds their efforts in closing out their first semester of full-time campus ministry.
- ✚ Brazil – Tony & Leila Frank – pray for them as they’re on home assignment now, that their travels and time with their supporters are blessed times of refreshment and renewal, and that the Lord blesses them with further stamina and wisdom as they prepare to return to Brazil.
- ✚ Chicago – Jon & Rachel Doriot – Pioneers
- ✚ China – Cheryl Wyse – Agape Family Life House (AFLH)
- ✚ Columbus – Matt & Paige Waanders – Cru at Ohio State – continue to pray for their encouragement in the many ways they are ministering to students at OSU and Columbus State University, and for Matt’s continued involvement with Cru’s work in Brazil.
- ✚ Dominican Republic – Jason & Becky Suon – Freedom International – pray for Jason & Becky, and pray for a new family, the Schrock’s, who are now raising support so they may join Jason & Becky in their efforts in the DR. Pray for their encouragement and perseverance.
- ✚ India – Dr. Shobha Arole & Mr. Ravi Arole – CRHP Jamkhed – pray for the CRHP staff as they mourn the loss of Lois Heer, who, with her husband, Richard, was instrumental in furthering our strong partnership. CRHP will have a service in memory of Lois during December.
- ✚ Kenya – Larry & Linda Rupp – Kajiado Children’s Home – pray the Lord opens doors and provides direction as they seek to meet important goals – rescuing 20 additional orphans, building a greenhouse, creating a tutoring program, and installing indoor toilets in the dorms,
- ✚ Thailand – Kinsey Smith – CRU at Grace International School – for her students who are believers to be strengthened and empowered to live out their identities as children of God; for those who are not believers, that their hearts would be softened and their eyes open to the Gospel; and for the staff that they would be empowered by the Spirit with wisdom and strength to love and lead the students in way that brings glory to God. Pray for Kinsey who will be staying in Thailand for the holidays, far from family.
- ✚ Toledo – Matt Pardi – Reliant Mission at U of Toledo – thank the Lord that Matt was able to be with us on November 11th, and pray that his leadership in the campus network continues to bring blessing and fruitfulness to the staff and students he is engaged with.

## Prayer Joys, Concerns, Requests - Please Pray For:

- Stacy Rutledge, had an ablation procedure on Thursday and is doing well.
- Dottie Young, mother of Pastor Alex, who had been recently diagnosed with colon cancer, had a successful surgery on Friday morning.
- Connie Bostelman, home from a couple of days at FCHC.
- Tatum Short, daughter of Ollie & Lauren, granddaughter of Scott & JoAnn, had palate surgery on December 5th, and the procedure went very well.
- Callie Ruffer, born July 26, 2018, daughter of Cameron & Kristen, granddaughter of Ed & Julie, continues in medical care due to a heart syndrome that affects the flow of blood through the heart.
- Sue Kinsman, who had hip replacement surgery on November 12th.
- Jeremy Neuenschwander, undergoing a new round of chemo treatments.
- Brenden Bostelman, in Alaska (Army) (Grandson of Bill & Kathy).
- Kyle Ducey, at Fort Gordon, Georgia (Navy) (Son of Kelly & Betsy).
- Jared Kuntz, at Guam (Army) (Son of Keith & Kelli).
- Eric Magg, at Ketchikan, Alaska (Coast Guard) (Son of Joe & Sheryl Short).
- Shayne & Taylor Pitts, at Bolling AFB, DC (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill).
- David Richardson, enlisted in the Marines, reports to boot camp on 2/25 (Son of Shannon & Yesi)
- Donny Richardson, in the Marines (Son of Shannon & Yesi).
- Joshua Richardson, in the Marines (Son of Shannon & Yesi)
- Steve Schink, at Port Angeles, WA (Coast Guard) (Son-in-Law of Ed & Julie Ruffer).
- AJ Short, at 29 Palms, California (Marines) (Son of Joe & Sheryl Short).
- Kyle Stuckey, at Killeen, Texas (Army) (Grandson of Nan Neill).
- Kollin Woolace, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina (Marines) (Grandson of Larry & Melva).
- All our home bound and care center residents.

## Today's Worship Servants

Acolytes	(10:30) Karly Grime
Ushers	(Head) Ryan Christman
	(10:30) Emily Hines, Emma Nafziger, Adam Walker, Emily Walker
Nursery Staff	(10:30) Bo & Bri Krukowski (Dec. 16) Keith & Kelli Kuntz
Children's Moment	(Both) Deb Kauffman
Sound Tech	(Both) James Grime
Video Tech	(10:30) Dean Sauder
Song Leader	(Both) Andrew Rohrs
Computer Tech	(Both) Kelly Ducey
Accompanist	(Both) Buffy Riley

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## ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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