

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

139 N. 4th Street
Emmaus, Pennsylvania

December 12, 2010

JOY

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 and 10:30 AM

The People of God Gather For Worship

Thought for Meditation: *"JOY - Jesus, Others and You."*

-Unknown

Prelude: Advent Prelude

...All May Stand...

Processional Hymn: *"Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"* #129

...Please Be Seated...

Welcome and Announcements

...All May Stand...

Call to Worship (after Isaiah 35:1-10):

Pastor: Leave your exile behind; God is calling us home.

People: **We'll follow the Way through the desert.**

Pastor: Enter the desert without fear; God's water will quench our thirst.

People: **We'll walk the Highway of God's people.**

Pastor: Travel the Highway with joy; God is leading to life in abundance.

People: **We'll strengthen weak hands, and support feeble knees;**

We'll encourage the fearful and calm the anxious:

Rejoice! Be strong! God is with us!

Pastor: Come, let us worship!

Act of Confession (after James 5:7-10):

Pastor: O God, you call us to patience and diligence in the painstaking work of your Reign, but we get discouraged and give up too soon.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Oh God, you call us to collaborate in community in the painstaking work of your Reign, but we neither trust nor honor the gifts of others.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Pastor: O God, you call us to be full of joyful confidence in the painstaking work of your Reign, but we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Silent Confession

Pastor: Forgive us, O God, and lead us in the ways of patience, community and joy.

Assurance of Forgiveness:

Pastor: Hear the good news: Jesus, savior from sin, is present with us in the painstaking work of the Reign of God forgiving our weakness, rebuilding our relationships, restoring our joy. Let us celebrate this great grace by offering to one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Sung Response: "Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

...Please Be Seated...

Advent Wreath Candlelighting:

Glenn and Jean Deischer, Harrison and Davis Ike (8:00)

Russell and Wendy Drabick (10:30)

Hymn: "One Candle Is Lit" Stanza 3 #128

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,

join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.

Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.

One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

The People of God Share the Word of God

A Time to Pass Our Faith Unto Our Children (10:30)

The Holy Scripture:

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10 Page 578

Epistle: James 5:7-10 Page 986

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11 Page 792

If you would like to follow the readings, the Bibles are under the hymnal rack.

Sermon: "Joy – Jesus, Others and You"

Rev. Dr. Paul W. Knappenberger

A Litany for Reception of New Members

Pastor: The church is a family of people with varieties of gifts, united by the Spirit revealed in Jesus of Nazareth.

People: **It is the Spirit of caring for one another, of forgiving, of helping each other, of love revealed in the life and death of Jesus.**

New Members: We want to share in that Spirit!

Pastor: The church is the people of God, with a diversity of needs, ideas and visions, inspired by the Spirit burning through the words and deeds of Jesus as recorded in scripture. May that same Spirit rest upon us.

People: **It is the Spirit of openness to the world and to all people as our sisters and brothers, of continual searching and learning of saying, "We believe, help our unbelief." It is the stirring toward growth and renewal that takes many forms.**

New Members: We want to share in that Spirit!

Pastor: The Spirit of the Christ calls us into a life of servanthood unto suffering.

People: **The Suffering Servant is one who is despised and rejected, a person of sorrows and well acquainted with grief. The Suffering Servant bears the grief and sorrows of others, and through suffering brings wholeness.**

New Members: We want to share in that Spirit!

Pastor: The Spirit of Christ which was present with Jesus is the Spirit of the Exodus – the Spirit that opts for liberation.

People: **The cries of the brick-makers in Egypt and throughout history have been heard by the God of the Exodus.**

New Members: We want to share in that Spirit!

Pastor: The Spirit of Christ which was present with Jesus is the Spirit of covenant formation, of community-building.

People: **We stand at the end of a cloud of witnesses that include Abraham and Sarah, Miriam and Moses, Esther and David, Job's daughters and the sons of the prophets, Martha and Jesus, and brothers and sisters in our midst who stand to open the Spirit's bidding.**

New Members: We want to share in that Spirit!

Pastor: The Spirit of Christ is also the Ruler of creation.

People: **The Spirit that was the creative brooding Presence in the midst of the waters of chaos is still moving in our midst and in the midst of the ongoing creation of the world to bring order out of chaos, unity in the midst of disunity, life in the midst of death.**

New Members: We want to share in that Spirit!

...All May Stand...

Hymn: "Come, O Long-expected Jesus"

#125

...Please Be Seated...

The People of God Pray

Celebrations of Joy and Moments of Concern

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer

Prayer Response:

**Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Sharing our Tithes and Offerings

Offering Invitation:

The Offering

The Offertory: Organ Offertory (8:00)

Senior Choir: “*Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn*” (10:30)

...All May Stand...

The Offertory Response: “*Doxology*”

#46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication and Commitment

The People of God Go Forth In Mission

Commission

Benediction:

Pastor: Let us go forth with eyes to see and ears to hear and voices to proclaim:

In the work of justice: Christ!

In the practice of mercy: Christ!

In good news for the poor: Christ!

In the vision of peace: Christ!

People: Amen! Thanks be to God!

Recessional Hymn: “*Hail to the Lord’s Anointed*”

#140

Silent Moment

Postlude: “*People Look East*”

Welcome

As we move toward the celebration of Christ’s birth, we welcome all to worship and learn more about our Savior. Your presence adds to our joy.

Preparation for Worship

Heavenly Creator, as we worship you, keep our thoughts on your arrival in our world.

Stewardship Moment

The Joy of Obedient Worship

You and I exist to worship. The more we realize that, the more we approach the experience of pure joy. Tithing and giving has less to do with money than with freedom. Tithing is not about percentages. Tithing and giving are about being part of what is holy, eternal and the truly “good life.” I could never go back to where I was before I began tithing and retain the joy I have found in obedience and giving. I like being free. I give to be free. I give to stay free. Through tithing, I receive more than I give – the joy of obedient worship in giving. [Scott Roberston, Lubbock, Texas]

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Paul W. Knappenberger, Senior Pastor,

pstpaul@stjohnsuccemmaus.org

Rev. Curt Sandrock, Assisting Pastor

Patrice DiCarne, Minister of Music

Colleen Bernini, Administrative Secretary

Diane Ritter, Financial Secretary, dedemarit@juno.com

Pat Dillman, Director of Christian Education

Keith Draves, Youth Group Advisor

Cheryl Clauser, Sexton

Church Office Hours: 8:30 to 11:30 & 12:30 to 3:30

Phone Number: 610.965.9158.....Fax Number: 610.967.5380

Email: office@stjohnsuccemmaus.org

Website: www.stjohnsuccemmaus.org

TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

8:00 AM

Acolytes: Emily Drabick, Shania Koehler
Greeters: Jake and Jo Kleppinger
Lector: Rev. Lisa Weida
Ushers: Glenn Shingler, Russell Drabick, Stephen Graeffe,
 Don Keck
Sound System: Mike Ackerman

10:30 AM

Acolytes: Alexis Hanna, Joscelyn Hengeveld
Greeters: Jean Bednar, Floyd Schmoyer, Gloria Steager
Lay Reader: Craig Demmy
Ushers: Bill Knappenberger, Christine Hanna, Kyle Heck,
 Leon Hemperly
Sound System: John Hill
Nursery: Joan Keiser
Tape Ministry: Harold Huber
Hospitality: Les and Debbie Schoenberger



ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sunday, December 12

Third Sunday in Advent
Poinsettia Sale Continues
Christmas Ball Sale Continues

8:00 am Worship
 9:15 am Sunday School for all Ages
 10:30 am Worship

Monday, December 13

6:15 pm Cadettes #6056

Tuesday, December 14

Poinsettia Order Deadline
 9:00 am Quilts for Kids
 6:00 pm Daisy Troop #61130
 6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop #6640
 7:00 pm Consistory
 7:30 pm Brain Tumor Support Group

Wednesday, December 15

10:00 am 10-2 Club
 6:30 pm Confirmation Class
 6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop #25
 6:30 pm Confirmation Class
 6:30 pm Bell Choir
 7:45 pm Senior Choir

Thursday, December 16

10:30 am Bible Study
 6:00 pm Cherub Choir
 6:30 pm Jr. Choir
 6:30 pm Cadettes
 6:30 pm Jr. Girl Scout Troop #6123
 6:30 pm Cub Scouts – All Dens

Saturday, December 18

8:30 am AA
 8:30 am Al Anon

Sunday, December 19

Fourth Sunday in Advent
Children's Christmas Program
 8:00 am Worship
 9:15 am Sunday School for all Ages
 10:30 am Worship

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Church Announcements for the Third Sunday in Advent, December 12, 2010

December Missions

Sixth Street Shelter: Children's underwear, socks and pajamas – toddler to teenagers. Bring anytime and place on the "Sock-It-To-Me" and Sunday Undies" Christmas trees located in the narthex. Please remember these children in your prayers and in your purchases of basic necessities.

Baby Gifts for Jesus: also given to the Sixth Street Shelter. Infant supplies including clothing, wipes, disposable diapers, toiletries, and baby food. Please do not include formula. Bring items for 6:30 Family Christmas Eve Service.

The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund: This national UCC offering helps to provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income UCC retirees. The fund also provides emergency assistance to families of low-income ordained and lay clergy. Please consider a response to the 2010 Christmas Fund to help the men and women who have willingly served our churches – often with insufficient income.

Thank you: The Mission Committee thanks all St. John's members and friends for your generous and thoughtful contributions to the 2010 mission projects. Each of you has been a blessing to someone in need, and we thank you.

Sign the Pew Register

To encourage fellowship at St. John's, please sign the pew register found at the center aisle of your pew. Pass the register on for others to sign it. As it is passed back, read the register and learn the names of those worshipping with you this morning!

New Members

St John's welcomes five new members into our church family this morning. Please extend your greetings to Joseph Heck, Owen and Renee O'Neil, Donald Seip, and Ashley Stombaugh. Ashley also celebrates her baptism into the Christian faith.

Deadline for Annual Reports

If you are responsible for a report to be included in the Annual Report, please note that the deadline for information to be submitted to the church office is Friday, January 21, 2011. Early submissions are always greatly appreciated!

Operation Christmas Ball

Holiday ornaments for the sanctuary Christmas tree may be purchased in the narthex following the 8:00 AM service and before and after the 10:30 AM service. The remaining date is Sunday, December 19th.

Poinsettias

A member of the Altar Guild will be available after both today to take your poinsettia orders or contributions to the Memorial Fund. **The final day for orders to be received in the church office is Tuesday, December 14th.**

Blood Pressure Screening

Today, December 12th, representatives of the Health Ministry Task Force at St. John's will be doing blood pressure screening. You are invited to stop by the Health Room following the 8:00 AM service or before and after the 10:30 AM service to have your blood pressure checked.

First Annual Basket Raffle and Social

Mark your calendars for St. John's First Annual Basket Raffle and Social, which will be held Friday, February 4, 2011. Doors open at 5:30 PM to preview, raffle begins at 7:00 PM. The cost is \$10.00 for 20 tickets. Additional raffle tickets will be sold at the event. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Food will be provided from our kitchen! Come support St. John's and have a fun night out!

We are looking for people to join the committee, donations to fill the baskets, people willing to donate filled baskets, and bakers. Please contact Wendy Moyer-Drabick at 610-754-1988 or wdrabick@dejazzd.com to help or for more information and questions.

Newsletter

The deadline for the January/February edition of St. John's newsletter is Wednesday, December 22, 2010. Please email your articles at office@stjohnsuccemmaus.org or bring them to the church office.

Confidentiality

It is important that we honor the rights to privacy of medical information for our St. John's members. If someone in the congregation shares a prayer concern, a medical issue, or hospitalization information with you, **please ask their permission** before sharing that information with the pastors, Undershepherd Ministry, Prayer Tree or church office, or for announcement in worship. If you are hospitalized or are sharing any prayer concerns, the pastors will ask your permission before disclosing information to anyone beyond the pastoral staff.

Church Hospital Code Number is 466!

The pastors visit our hospitalized members. If you, or a member of your family enters the hospital, please ask the hospital to place the patient's name on church code #466, St. John's UCC, Emmaus or call the church office to inform us at 610-965-9158.

Recently Hospitalized – Tim Haring

Greeting Cards

The Undershepherd Ministries give us the opportunity to sign greeting cards for folks on our Home Visitation List, for members of the congregation who need a lift, or just to say "hello". All cards are in the Narthex. Please take a minute to sign the cards and send these folks our Christian greetings. Today we are signing cards for:

Merial Spohn, Mrs. David Bailey & Family, Christmas Cards for Soldiers

The Altar Flowers are sponsored by the Altar Guild of St. John's United Church of Christ in honor of all our faithful members.

The Bulletins are sponsored by Donna Wert in memory of her husband, Jim.

Church Attendance – December 5: 8:00 AM – 75 10:30 AM – 162

Income Report for Sunday, December 5, 2010:

Mortgage Account (BOFFT, Building Blocks, Building Fund) – \$1,992.00

General Fund - \$7,363.25

Loud Offering - \$272.29