

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

139 N. 4th Street
Emmaus, Pennsylvania

December 11, 2011

JOY

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 and 10:30 AM

The People of God Gather For Worship

Thought for Meditation: *“All growth that is not toward God is growing to decay.”*

-George MacDonald

Prelude: *“Creator of the Stars of Night”* arr. McGabe
“People, Look East” arr. Wood
...All May Stand...

Processional Hymn: *“One Candle is Lit”* #128
...Please Be Seated...

Welcome and Announcements
...All May Stand...

Solemn Declaration

Call to Worship:

Pastor: God of Surprising Generosity and Unexpected Grace, we have come to witness a miracle; to prepare our hearts for a new invasion of Your Light.

People: **We have come once again to open our souls and our lives to the divine birth.**

Pastor: And in this sacred moment we ask for Your gentle Presence to captivate and challenge us.

People: **For Jesus' sake. Amen.**

Act of Confession:

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God.

All: **We give thanks, O God, that you are unchanging, that your concern for justice and righteousness was so strong that you came in human form to share that concern with us in person. We confess that all too often we hesitate to speak or act when we see people being treated unjustly. Forgive us, O God, for the times when we have been happy to hear the gospel without truly living it. Forgive us for uncaring attitudes when we base our opinion of another person's worth on what they own, or how they look; on what they say, or how they live, rather than accepting them for who they are – people made in your image. Forgive us when our longing to live simply and with humility is defeated by selfish desires – for pursuing profits before seeking your will. Forgive us for placing our hope in other than the Christ-child born in a poor stable. Our hope lies in the promise of your mercy, O God, extending to those who fear you from generation to generation. Heal, restore and bless us, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon:

Pastor: May the God of peace cleanse you through and through. The promise is that our whole being – spirit, soul and body will be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Rejoice, then, and give thanks as we receive forgiveness and healing in Christ's name. Amen.

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:
The Deischer and Ike Families (8:00)
Rhys and Kathy Williams (10:30)
Solo: "One Light" Ainsley Hanna

The People of God Share the Word of God

A Time to Pass Our Faith Onto Our Children
The Holy Scripture:
Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11 Page 603
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 Page 961
Gospel Lesson: John 1:6-8, 19-28 Page 862
If you would like to follow the readings, the Bibles are under the hymnal rack.

Sermon: "Live the Moment" Rev. Dr. Paul W. Knappenberger

...All May Stand...

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hades;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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

Lord's Prayer:

**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, for ever.
Amen.**

Prayer Response:

**"Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to Thee, O Israel."**

Sharing our Tithes and Offerings

Offering Invitation
The Offering
The Offertory: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (8:00)
arr. Hughes
Senior Choir Anthem: "A Little Child Will Come to Lead Us" (10:30)
Bonnie Keck, Flute
...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
Threefold Amen
Recessional Hymn: “*When God is a Child*” #132
Silent Moment
Postlude: “*The Advent Chorale*” Mendelssohn

Welcome

On this third Sunday of Advent, we’re glad you’ve joined us to prepare for Christ’s coming — at Christmas, at the end of time and as we gather here today. Welcome!

Preparation for Worship

“The LORD has done great things for us, and we [rejoice]” (Psalm 126:3, NRSV). Tune our hearts, God, to sing your praises now and always.

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
Kayli Freeman, Seminarian
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: Kenneth Heck, Harrison Ike
Greeters: Jake and Jo Kleppinger
Lay Reader: Tom Capehart
Ushers: Tom Capehart, Kyle Heck, Kevin Krause,
Randy Weidner
Sound System: Brian Dillman

10:30 AM

Acolytes: Emily Hartranft, Joscelyn Hengeveld
Greeters: Jean Bednar, David Hengeveld, Anna Jane Kelly
Lay Reader: Harold Huber
Ushers: Bill Knappenberger, Sarae Quinn, Rick Snyder,
Rachel Wentz
Sound System: Don Keck
Nursery: Gena DeLong, Shania Koehler
Tape Ministry: Nancy Wieder
Flower Delivery: Ron and Gerry Mosemann
Hospitality: Mary Lou Hilbert



ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR

Sunday, December 11

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

Tuesday, December 13

9:00 am Quilts for Kids
6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop #6640
7:00 pm Advent Bible Study (Youth Lounge)
7:00 pm Consistory
7:30 pm Brain Tumor Support Group

Wednesday, December 14

6:30 pm Boy Scout Troop #25
6:30 pm Bell Choir
7:45 pm Senior Choir

Thursday, December 15

10:15 am Women's Bible Study
6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop #6123
6:30 pm Cadettes
6:30 pm All Dens

Saturday, December 17

8:30 am AA
8:30 am Al Anon

Sunday, December 18

8:00 am Worship
8:50 am Children's Choir
9:15 am Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 am Children's Christmas Program

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Church Announcements for Sunday, December 11, 2011

December Missions:

Veterans of the Cross – Amid the depressed economic condition your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of clergy retirees who struggle to meet increasing costs of living and high medical costs. Many retired pastors did not receive adequate salaries and benefits to see them through their retirement years. Please give, as you are able to this ministry of compassion and care. **Please designate your offering as “Veterans of the Cross.”**

Baby Gifts for Jesus/ Sunday Undies/Cozy Pajamas

All of the gifts are given to the 6th St. Shelter for single parents and families who are temporarily housed at the shelter until they can get “back on their feet” and into permanent housing.

Baby Gifts for Jesus: These gifts include infant clothing, disposable diapers, wipes, small hats, and mittens, non-perishable baby food, (**please no formula**) and anything else appropriate for infants and toddlers. At the 6:30 Christmas Eve service these gifts are brought forward by the children, their families, or anyone else who wishes to give and placed under the two Christmas trees located at the front of the church.

Sunday Undies and Pajamas: Older children who temporarily live with their parent(s) at the shelter, ages 4-teenagers, are in need of new socks, underwear, undershirts and pajamas. Anytime during the month of December you may place these gifts on the Christmas trees and pajama ladder located in the narthex.

All of the above gifts will be given to the 6th St. Shelter. Thank you for making a special effort for these children and their families.

Harvest Home Thank You

The mission committee thanks everyone who supported Harvest Home – Mission 1. The goal of 111 food items was surpassed with over 400 non-perishable items being donated. Food donations were divided between families in need and the Emmaus Food Bank. Thank you to Carl Weider for making the delivery to the food bank. Thank you to all who contributed to Phoebe. Over \$600 will be sent to Phoebe to help continue their ministry for older adults.

Gently Used Handbag Sale & Mother’s Day Tea

The Mission Committee is planning a gently used handbag sale and tea in conjunction with Mother’s Day 2012. All proceeds will go to the Garden Committee for their use in purchasing perennials/shrubs/trees for the church gardens. Details will be forthcoming. Please save your clean gently used purses and tote bags for the 2012 Mother’s Day Celebration!

Operation Christmas Ball

Holiday ornaments for the sanctuary Christmas tree may be purchased December 4th, 11th & 18th after the 8:00 AM service and before and after the 10:30 AM service.

Stewardship Devotional

Please pick up a stewardship devotional called *The Big Secret of Giving: Hidden Treasures in Life and Church* by William Green in the narthex. May this booklet help you gain some powerful understandings of the spiritual practice of stewardship.

Poinsettia Sale

A representative for the Altar Guild will be available after both services this morning to take your order. **Final orders must be received in the Church Office by Monday morning, December 12th.** You can order poinsettia plants for \$10.00 each or give a donation of at least \$10.00. Please complete a form with the appropriate information along with payment to the representative seated in the Narthex or place a form and payment in any envelope in the pew rack and mark it "Poinsettia Sale" and place it in the collection plate. Thank you for your support.

Blood Pressure Screening

Today, December 11th, 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 after the 8:00 AM service and before and after the 10:30 AM service.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day Worship

There will be only one service at 10:30 on Christmas day and New Year's day.

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.

Gloria Schlegel, Agnes Hendricks

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:

Eddie Samolot, Lucille Sicher, Gloria Steager, Shirley Benner and Family

The Altar Flowers are sponsored by the Fenstermacher Family in loving memory of husband, father and grandfather, Rev. William C. Fenstermacher.

Church Attendance – December 4, 2011: **8:00 AM** – 85 **10:30 AM** – 115

Income Report for Sunday, December 4, 2011:

Mortgage Account (BOFFT, Building Blocks, Building Fund) – \$4,848.00
General Fund - \$2,574.50