



United Presbyterian Church
1701 E. Second St.
Bloomington, IN 47401

December 14, 2025 Worship Guide
Third Sunday of Advent

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United Presbyterian Church Staff

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Announcements Elder Allen Pease

Welcome Reverend Carol Barrett

Prelude *Angels from the Realms of Glory* Benjamin Watkins

Call to Worship Oliver Ruth, liturgist



Lighting of the Advent Wreath ♦ Elder Allen Pease & Oliver Ruth ♦ **The Candle of Joy**

Elder: This morning we light the third candle of Advent...the candle of Joy.

Liturgist: Life with our Eternal Creator fills each moment with wonder and surprise. May we be watchful as we await the coming of Christ. May we not be found sleeping but awake and rejoicing in the newness of life God is sending. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Let us pray.

People: **Stir up joy within Your people, Lord God. Open our ears to your Word through your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Elder: Come, let us worship with joy!

***Hymn of Praise** *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* #464

Prayer of Confession (in unison with Liturgist)

God of our waiting, forgive us when we allow uncertainty and fear to cover over answered prayer, guidance, confirmations you send. We often allow life to steal our God-given joy as if we never see You at work. Let us follow the example of Mary, whose challenge-filled life could not keep her from overflowing with joy to praise You.

Hear now our silent confessions.....

Declaration of Forgiveness Rev. Carol Barrett

***Gloria Patri** #579



Passing of the Peace

Liturgist: God sends this message of joy to all people, preaching peace by Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also, with you.**

Liturgist: Let us share Christ's peace with one another

Music for Meditation *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming* UPC Quartet

Prayer for Illumination (Liturgist)

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit, that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson *Isaiah 7:10 - 16* – Liturgist Ruth

The New Testament Lesson *Matthew 1:18 - 25* – Rev. Barrett

Reverend: The word of the Lord **People: Thanks be to God**



Sermon *The Unremembered One*

Reverend Barrett

Affirmation of Faith— From *The Confession of 1967* led by Reverend Barrett

We affirm that “God, in due time, raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God’s promise to the people of God, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction, and called the church to be His servant for the reconciliation of the world.”

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer – Reverend Carol Barrett

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.

Call for the Offering

Offertory

**Doxology #592*

Prayer of Dedication

***Closing Hymn:** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* #9

Charge and Benediction Reverend Carol Barrett

Postlude *I Wonder as I Wander* Benjamin Watkins, piano

*Please stand if you are able

UPC Prayer List - Email requests to: upcbloomington@gmail.com

Our congregation as we close 2025 and look forward to 2026 in the service of our Lord

Kevin Jones Roby Lorimer Virginia McCartney Kathleen Olds Anita Steverson

His Eyes Mission in Honduras led by Valerie and Felipe Co,by

Nyaka Global in Uganda led by Jackson Kaguri

The food pantries of Monroe County as they struggle with increased demand

The people of Georgia, Nigeria, Middle East and Ukraine

Agencies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

THE INTERIM UNIFIED AGENCY, THE PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION, THE PRESBYTERIAN INVESTMENT AND LOAN PROGRAM, PRESBYTERIAN PUBLISHING CORPORATION, THE BOARD OF PENSIONS,

Specialized Ministries in the Presbytery of Ohio Valley

We pray for those members of our Presbytery who have been called to ministries outside the local parish setting, including those serving in hospitals or hospice care, in institutions caring for older adults or persons with disabilities, in campus ministries, at centers providing resources for congregations, at camp and conference centers, and offering pastoral and spiritual care to pastors and their families.

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley is fortunate to have so many such ministers in our midst, as they also offer pulpit supply and sacramental leadership in our congregations, moderate sessions without pastors, and contribute their gifts on presbytery committees and commissions. We are grateful for their energy, intelligence, imagination, and love!

Church Leaders: Annual Reports Due

The UPC 2026 Annual Report covering 2025 is being assembled for presentation at the UPC Annual Meeting in January. Email your report to upcbloomington@gmail.com no later than Friday, January 9, 2026. See Allen if you have questions.



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Prepare the Way – Isaiah 40



When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering we prepare the way for church leaders and students of color at Presbyterian related schools. Of the offering, 50% smooths the path for church workers and clergy in times of need and 50% prepares students of color to learn and grow at Presbyterian schools. The PC(USA) Christmas Joy Offering will be received at UPC the 4th Sunday of Advent

(12/21) and our service of Lessons & Carols (12/28).



The 2025 Hat & Mitten Tree . . .

. . . is in Fellowship Hall. Please decorate it with hats, mittens, gloves, earmuffs and scarves in *sizes from toddlers to Teens*. The *decorations* will be given to agencies serving children in need. Don't have time to shop? Stephanie Worden has volunteered to shop. Simply bring in check/cash and she'll shop for hats and mittens on your behalf.

Last day to decorate the tree is tomorrow, December 15.



This Afternoon! → **Bloomington Chamber Singers Annual Messiah Sing-Along**

Bloomington Chamber Singers is excited to invite both singers and nonsingers alike to their annual Messiah Sing-Along. A community tradition for over thirty years the Messiah Sing-Along, featuring members of BCS and a wonderfully talented chamber orchestra, is free and open to the public. Bring your copy of Handel's Messiah, or borrow one from the Chamber Singers and sing side-by-side with members of Bloomington Chamber Singers. Just want to listen? Come along and enjoy the "Christmas" elements of the Messiah as a wonderful way to augment your holiday season. Bloomington Chamber Singers is joining forces with Hoosier Hills Food Bank as a donation site to help those in need.

The chorus will be accepting donations of canned goods to help support the mission of the food bank. The sing-along, scheduled for 3 pm, Sunday, December 14, under the direction of BCS Artistic Director, Caio Lopes, and will feature soloists from the choir. For more info, please visit: <https://www.chambersingers.info>. Location: St. Mark's, 100 N. St. Road 46. Event is free. Donations of canned goods for Hoosier Hills will be gratefully accepted.



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Thank You 2025 Poinsettia Display Sponsors

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Michelle Heitink, Sue Lorimer

Souheil & Alejandra Haddad – in loving memory of Bob Hammel and Souheil's parents & in joy for Ale's parents & granddaughters Yasmina and Evileen

Troy & Nancy Hill – in joy for their son Andy Hill

Lance & Karen Like – in loving memory of their parents

Allen Pease – in loving memory of Bob Hammel and Allen's parents- Rose, Robert & Ray