**December 08, 2024**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

A poster with a candle in a wreath

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**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

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***Crescentville United Methodist Church***

***Second Sunday of Advent                       PEACE* December 8, 2024**

**Prelude**

**Preparing for Worship “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” – please join in singing**

**Welcome & Announcements**

*Please stand*

**Chorus of Welcome**                              *“The Family of God”*

I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God—I’ve been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!  Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod; for I’m part of the family,

the family of God.

**\*Call to Worship**

L: Let us hear what God the Lord will speak:

**P: Peace to the children who turn to God in their hearts.**

L: Salvation is at hand for those who know the Lord,

**P: Because God’s glory is coming to dwell in our land.**

L: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

**P: Righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**

**\*Hymn** *“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”* # 203

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son! Hail in the time appointed,  
 his reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;  
 to take away transgression, and rule in equity. Hail To The Lord! Hail To The Lord!

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong; to help the poor and needy,  
 and bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
 whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight. Hail To The Lord! Hail To The Lord!

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth; love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
 spring in his path to birth. Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,  
 and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow. Hail To The Lord! Hail To The Lord!

O’er every foe victorious He on His throne shall rest, from age to age more glorious, All-blessing

and all-blest. The tide of time shall never His covenant remove; His Name shall stand forever, His

changeless Name of Love. Hail To the Lord! Hail to the Lord! Hail To The Lord! Hail To The Lord!

**\*Advent Candle Lighting**

L: In this busy season of gifts and gatherings, we need breathing room.

**P: Come, child of peace!**

L: All parents need peace of mind about their children’s futures.

**P: Come, child of peace!**

L: God offers compassion to a world afflicted by fear and doubt.

**P: Come, child of peace!**

L: We respond to God’s compassion with loving kindness towards each other.

**P: Come, child of peace!**

\*Response **“This Little Light of Mine”**

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine! This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine! Let it shine; let it shine; let it shine!

**\*Opening Prayer**

**God of glory, Your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem into the darkness**

**of human night. Open our eyes to Christ’s presence in the shadows of our world,**

**so that we, like Him, may become beacons of Your justice, messengers of Your peace,**

**and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.**

*Please Be Seated*

**Youth Message**

**Joys & Concerns……………*Gathered Prayer***

***Singing of THE LORD'S PRAYER–***

*Our Father, which 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.*

**Gifts and Offerings**

**Offertory** *“Just One Candle”          Please join in singing!*

*Please stand*

**\*The Doxology** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” [TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL]

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**The Offertory Prayer**

Dismissal of the Youth

**\*Hymn of Preparation** *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”* [VS. 1-3]# 384

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling;

all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
 visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit;  
 let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
 end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return and never,  
 nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
 pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

*Please be seated*

**Gospel Lesson** *St. Luke 3:1-6* [Common English Bible]

In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor

over Judea and Herod was ruler over Galilee, his brother Philip was ruler over Ituraea

and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was ruler over Abilene, **2**during the high priesthood of Annas

and Caiaphas—God’s word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

**3**John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized

to show that they were ***changing*** their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins.

**4**This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet, *A voice crying out in the wilderness:* “*Prepare the way for the Lord;* *make his paths straight .***5***Every valley will be filled,* *and very mountain and hill will be leveled.* *The crooked will be made straight* *and the rough places made smooth.* **6***All humanity will see God’s salvation.*”

**Sermon** *“Why Change?”*

*Please stand*

**\*Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles’ Creed*

      I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

      And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord:

      who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

      suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

      the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven,

      and sitteth at 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 Spirit, the holy catholic church,

      the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

      the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  Amen.

**Closing Hymn** *“Heralds of Christ”*  # 567

Heralds of Christ, who bear the King's commands, immortal tidings in your mortal hands,  
 pass on and carry swift the news you bring; make straight, make straight the highway of the King.

Through desert ways, dark fen, and deep morass, through jungles, sluggish seas, and mountain

pass, build now the road, and falter not, nor stay; prepare across the earth the King's highway.

Lord, give us faith and strength the road to build, to see the promise of the day fulfilled,  
 when war shall be no more, and strife shall cease upon the highway of the Prince of Peace.

**Benediction**

**Choral Benediction** *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”* [VS. 4]# 384

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation  
 perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
 till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

A calendar with a book and a tree

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**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

These readings are built to give you a longing, anticipation, and excitement that leads to the birth of Jesus, the One who will save His people from their sins.

**Third Sunday of Advent - December 15, 2024**

Luke 3:7-18 - Zephaniah 3:14-20 - Isaiah 12:2-6 - Philippians 4:4-7

This Christmas let’s bless a friend of Crescentville UMC.

We are accepting donations for a family in need this holiday season.

Even as many are already struggling, this family needs our support.

Please give as you can, knowing you are a blessing to this family.

Envelope for giving in your bulletin today, and available by request.

Please make checks payable to Crescentville UMC and mark it “Bless a Friend”.

A gift wrapped present with a star and red ribbon

Description automatically generated **Joys & Concerns: Keep those prayers going and thank God for His answers! To add a prayer request or share a joy,**

***please call or text Sue Creevey 267-847-6029***

It’s hard to be angry at someone we’re praying for. There’s something about taking a genuine prayer to God that removes anger from our hearts, even if that’s not what we’re praying about. And when that happens, it leads to reconciliation.

**Prayer Requests from December 1st**

Jeanie Wilson was hit by a car - broke both legs and smashed her foot. Prayers for healing.

The Wilson's great-grandson, Kelsey is having surgery this week on his pallette, he just celebrated his 1st birthday.

Jean Bernard asked for prayers for his family & for Haiti.

Prayers for Eric & Tracy Roseboro, both are being treated for cancer.

Traveling mericies for Samuel Cole as he attends the Annual Conference in Ghana,

Traveling mercies for all, especially those returning to college/school.

Prayers for the McGeary family as they mourn the death of Kim McGeary.

Sofia Kofa thanks all for prayers and condolences on the death of her sister Martha K Weah, Asking for continued prayers for the family.

Marge Rosenkaimer is in the hospital, continued prayers for strength & healing.

Suna Moseray thanks God for the job he has given to her. Prayers to keep us safe as we go in & out.

**Continuing Prayers for:**

Martha & Wondor Korto Scott Meyer Cass Quigley Marva David & Esther Clinton Sherma Prince

Betty Brzoza Victoria Somers Meghann Riley Sheryl Duke Marge Rosenkaimer

**For families, especially:**

Betty Sauerwald & family The Stefanescu & Mc Manus Families

Zilpha and James Browne Jean Bernard and family The Spotts Family

**For an end to violence, for peace** **and stability**

Philadelphia, especially our community - Sierra Leone, Africa

Haiti - Israel and Hamas - Ukraine and Russia

**Please praise and pray for our youth – they are the future of our church!**

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING**

**DONATIONS FOR UNITED METHODIST NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**

Um Neighborhood Services purpose is to service the needs of inner city Philadelphia people, especially women, children, and youth, providing food, clothing, and other resources, empowering individuals to become self-sufficient. We will be collecting items to send to UM Neighborhood Services.

Please donate NEW personal care items [such as body wash, wash cloths]

We will also be collecting gently used coats for any gender, any age.

Please bring your items to church by December 15th.

**FUNDRAISER TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO OUR YOUTH**

**SO THAT THEY MAY ATTEND SUMMER CAMP.**

Please bring gently used clothing and books to our church for donation.

These items will be donated to 2nd Street Thrift, and we will be reimbursed a small monetary amount per pound of items we donate. Donations will be collected up until January 13, 2025.

Our date for drop off to 2nd Street Thrift is January 14, 2025.

Bags for donations are available in the back of the church.

**CRESCENTVILLE UMC - Calendar of Events**

**December 2024**

**Please check our web page for updates!**

**Wednesday’s during Advent - December 4, 11, 18.**

**ADVENT VESPERS AT PPH CHAPEL 6:30 PM**

Led by Pastor Randy, Sue Creevey & Pastor Earl from PPH.

Services will be recorded and available online by 9 PM

**Saturday, Dec 14th ﻿ Winter Fest at Carson Simpson Farms [All Ages]**

December 14 - 4pm - 5:30pm

Crafts, hot chocolate, games, and tree lighting. Fun for all ages.

**Youth will meet at church at 1:00 PM** to cook for Caring for Friends

And will leave to go to Carson Simpson around 3pm.

**NEXT SUNDAY!**

**Sunday, Dec 15th Third Sunday of Advent - 10:30 Worship**

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

**COVERED DISH LUNCHEON AFTER WORSHIP**

**Short Program after lunch – stay for the laughs & caroling!**

**DONATIONS FOR UNITED METHODIST NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**

Please bring your items to church by December 15th.

**Wed, Dec 24th CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE 7 PM**

**Please stay after worship & enjoy some milk & cookies!**

**Sunday, Dec 29th Youth Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**