

ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Independence, Missouri 64050
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Rev. E. Paul Emily, Pastor
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Margie Foley, Organist/Pianist
Matthew Bennett, Conductor/Violinist

Nanette Moore, Administrative Assistant/Director of Christian Education
Pastors Emeriti: Rev. David Lyon & Rev. Ralph Koch

*If comfortable doing so, you are invited to stand.

The hymns today come from The Methodist Hymnal.

NOVEMBER 27, 2022

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SILENT MEDITATION: "The fire of hope awakes our hearts when in despair we're sleeping. It speaks of light while through the night the shadows swiftly creep in. Come, see the sparks of life that burn against the pow'r of strife; Come, stand within its glow, the holy fire of Advent." -- Elana Keppel Levy

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

PRELUDE

"We Shall Prepare"

Mark Friedman and Janet Vogt

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 211 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs 1,2,4)

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

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

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go. Refrain

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
all peoples on thy mercy call. Refrain

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Let us wait for God, who deals gently with us.

All: We will watch for God's appearance among us.

One: Let us keep our morning watch together.

All: We come seeking to know more of God's presence with us.

One: Let us hope in the promises of God.

All: We give thanks for the Dayspring from on high which shall visit us.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

God of Great Mystery, we confess that we are too weary to even watch for your coming among us. Our attention is captivated by the glare of empty promises in which we have put our hope. Awaken our hearts and souls, nurture the hope that lies buried within us. Shine your light upon us and forgive us that we may wait with patience and readiness as our redeemer draws near. Amen

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: Advent is a season of promise. Our ears are open, ready to hear again the promises of God that were proclaimed through the prophets. Promises of the coming light that will dispel the darkness. Promises of comfort that will overcome suffering. Promises not only for a time long ago but promises all around us that are waiting to be heard.

Advent Song

"Miracle Hymn"

Luke Thomas Atencio/Candace Elizabeth Lee

When the darkness comes, let the light shine through
A spark of faith will ignite in you
In a candle's glow, a virgin's womb
In a simple prayer, in the empty tomb
There are *promises* all around
Promises yet to be found
Hid in every heart is an answered prayer
Like a candle's flame, *hope* will lead us there.

(Used with permission from Righteous Writing/Impact Productions)

One: This is the Candle of *Hope*. Let us *Light This and Pray*

Lighting the Candle Of Hope

All: Let the spark of faith ignite in us, Oh God, that our lives would be aglow with Advent's Holy Flame of Hope.

MOMENTS WITH MINNIE

PRAYER and THE 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 sins as we forgive those
who sin against us. 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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Lovely Child, Holy Child"

Arr. Dan Goeller

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:1-5

SERMON

"Light This and Pray"

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 204 "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" (Sing twice)

McGEE

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

OFFERING OUR TIME, TALENTS AND TITHES

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Arr. Mark Hayes

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**

Generous God, we joyously bring our offerings to you with gratitude and faith. We would be ever awake and watchful for opportunities to make a difference, to help others become aware of your presence, to value life in all its fullness, and to learn to care. We dedicate these gifts and the living of our lives to your Spirit for these purposes. Amen

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 213 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (vs 1,2,3)

TRURO

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in us reveal.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"The First Noel"

Arr. John Carter

The Liturgist today is Katelynn Emily.

Thank you to Linda Drown for accompanying the hymns today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Fountain City String Quartet Christmas Concert will be Sunday, December 4th, 7:30 PM. The concert will be in person at St. Luke's UCC, or online on the church Facebook page. It will feature our own Matt Bennett, violin. This is a free concert and will last about an hour. It will feature traditional and pop Christmas music.

HOLIDAY FOODS FOR CSL

We will be collecting holiday meal items for CSL until December 11th. Staples such as canned fruits, meats, vegetables, mixes or kits for desserts and casseroles are all needed. Let's show the community we care.

HOLIDAY HELPERS

We are again participating in the Independence School District's
Holiday Helper Campaign.

We will collect money through December 4th
The donations will go to families in need that aren't helped by other programs.
A family from our congregation will be matching all our gifts up to \$500.
Look for a Holiday Helper can in the sanctuary.

HOLIDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

December 4th ~ Regular Sunday School for all ages

December 11th ~ Regular Adult Sunday School & last minute pageant preparations for youth and kids

December 18th ~ Regular Adult Sunday School. Christmas Party for the youth and kids

December 25th & January 1st ~ **NO** Sunday School & **NO** Kids Table activities for the kids.

January 8th ~ Resume normal Sunday School Schedule.

SAVE THE DATES

We have the following things planned for fall. Mark you calendars now and save the following dates?

You won't want to miss these special events (as well as many others not listed).

Details will be posted closer to each date.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year's Christmas Pageant will be on December 11th, during worship. Plan to attend to experience the Christmas story through the eyes, voices and laughter of children.

CHRISTMAS EVE

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Saturday, December 24th, at 7:00 PM.

Invite a friend to this very special Christmas Eve Worship Service.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

We will have a Christmas Day worship service on Sunday, December 25th, 10:45 AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP AND BREAKFAST

Let's celebrate the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023 with breakfast, fellowship and worship with your church family on January 1st. Breakfast at 9:30 followed by worship at 10:45 AM.

CHECK IN, SHARE AND COMMENT

If you are worshipping in person, please "Check-in" on Facebook, then, share the service, comment on it and like it. You are encouraged to have your device out during the service.

If the music inspires you, tell Matthew and Margie by commenting about how wonderful it was or say thank you.

If the sermon speaks to you, comment with how it touched you.

If there is a great story during Children's Moment or a kid makes you laugh, comment and tell what it was.

If someone makes a comment that you like, reply to them.

We encourage you to connect with those worshipping online as well as in person.

If you are worshipping online, share and comment on the service. Comment on the things listed above, reply to and/or like other people's comments.

Again, it is so important to stay connected and these are simple ways to do that.



INSTAGRAM

Use this QR code to follow St. Luke's UCC on Instagram!

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday

9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages

10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal

10:45 AM Online Worship

Monday—Friday, 9:45 AM Live with Pastor Paul in Windows Facebook Group

Monday, 6:00 PM Girl Scout Meeting & 6:30 PM NA Meeting

Wednesday, 9:30—1:00 ABC Quilting

7:00 PM NA Meeting



For more information about any of these, please email the church office at stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org

GIVING OPTIONS

If you wish to make a donation to St. Luke's, there are several options available:

1. Check mailed to church office at 727 N. Main, Independence, MO 64050
2. Internet donation – you may now donate from a secure site by clicking on the Give Now button on the website.
3. Electronic funds transfer – your offering can be automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.

To sign up, click here. After completing the form, contact the church office stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org for instructions.

4. Vanco Mobile App - download the free app on Google Play or the App Store. Enter St Lukes (without punctuation) as the church name Select St. Luke's United Church of Christ in Independence. From there you can create an account and use the app for donations.
5. Text the word GIVE to 816-312-5053 and you will be directed to a secure site for giving.



CONNECT

If you are visiting today we would love to connect with you.
Text CONNECT to 816-312-5053 or use the QR code to the left.



PHOTO/VIDEO POLICY

May it be understood that any pictures/videos taken during any church event may be used for promotion. Church events, including but not limited to, worship services may be broadcast live on Facebook.

If you are not in agreement with this notify the church office.