



Boulevard Presbyterian Church
Worship On The Lord's Day
December 12, 2021 10:00 A.M.
Third Sunday of Advent



Boulevard Church's Session met recently and voted to abide by the recently established CDC guidelines for masks. The CDC has created four measures for community spread of the COVID virus: blue, yellow, orange, and red. Franklin County quickly moved from yellow to orange to red in the last three weeks. Given the rapid spread of the Delta version of the virus, the CDC has recommended that both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons be masked.

We are sorry to have to require masking again but ask for your cooperation. We will let you know about any additional changes in policy should Franklin County move to red or return to yellow or blue. Thank you.

Steve Hills, Chair, COVID Committee

**please stand, if able*

PRELUDE

"Kling No, Klokka!" (Ring Out Church Bells)

Norwegian Folk Tune, arr. by Shirley Brendlinger

Dianne Cattran – flute; Susan Ebert - hand bells

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Schafer Family

Leader: "Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say rejoice."
The world says, "Worry,"
and we say, "Rejoice."
The news says, "Fear."
and we say, "Rejoice."
The world says, "Be happy,"
and the church says, "Be faithful."

Leader: As we light our third Advent candle,
People: we pray for hope, peace, and joy.
Leader: Come now, O Child of Mary.
People: Come now, O Prince of joy.

*HYMN 105

"People, Look East"

Text: Eleanor Farjeon ©1960 David Higham Assoc. Reprinted under OneLicense A-702458.

*People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.*

*Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.*

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

OFFERING OUR BROKENNESS TO GOD

Leader: Trusting in God's salvation, faithfulness and merciful love, let us confess our sin and the sin of the world, as we lift our voices together.

People: **Merciful God, we confess that, in the midst of your glorious creation, we have neglected our role in its care. We ignore the cries of the hurting and the lonely, those on the margins and those who are oppressed. We focus on our own desires, while forgetting the needs of our neighbors. We have not prepared a way for the Lord, through either our words or our deeds, neither through our actions nor our thoughts.**

Grant us your mercy and forgive us; lead us to act with compassion and justice, guided by your glorious light. *(time for silent prayer)* **Amen.**

Leader: Surely God is our salvation! We will trust in the Lord's goodness and will not be afraid. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

*RECEIVE GOD'S HEALING AND SHARE GOD'S PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Please symbolically share the peace of Christ with those around you.

*RESPONSE: HYMN 583

"Gloria, gloria"

Text: Trad. liturgical text. Public domain.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 12:2-6

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:21-38

SERMON

"Waiting and Watching for Jesus"

Rev. Charlotte O'Neil

*HYMN 83

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Text: .Charles Wesley. Public domain.

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(adapted from a poem by Ann Weems)*

We believe...

Christmas comes every time we see God in other persons.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God became flesh and joined humanity – once and for all, with grace and with certainty.

Christmas comes even in the face of hatred and war – and there is nothing too terrible to stop it, no one strong enough, no hurt deep enough, no curse shocking enough, no disaster shattering enough.

For someone on earth will see the star, hear the angel voices, run to the stable, and know peace and goodwill.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

"Thank You, God, for Your Creation" (Tune: Regent Square)

Stephens

*Thank you, God, for your creation; Bless, O Lord, these gifts we bring.
Thank you, God, for Christ the Savior, your own precious offering.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Bless, O Lord, these gifts we bring.*

SHARING OUR HEARTS WITH GOD

Following each petition, God's people respond:

Leader: Loving God,
People: **Hear our prayer.**

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 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.

*HYMN

Tune: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

The first verse is from "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace" (Song of Simeon)

Text: para. James Quinn, S.J. © 1969, 1989, James Quinn, S.J. Published by OCP. Reprinted under OneLicense A-702458

The others are verses 3 and 5 from "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Text: Edmund H. Sears. Public domain.

*Lord, bid your servant go in peace; your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, this child so long foretold.
This is the Savior of the world, the Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst, the joy of Israel.
Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long.
Beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong.
And we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!
For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

Leader: May God's blessing be ours:
People: **a blessing of loving kindness,
a blessing of hope and courage,
a blessing of listening and love.**
Leader: God's blessing be ours always.
People: **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

*"Lord, Let Your Servant Now Go in Peace"
(from The Lutheran Book of Worship)*

arr. by David Cherwien

+ + +

*Worship Leaders: George Ells, Stefanie Osborne
Elder of the Month: Linda Wilton*

+ + +

Flowers today are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Linda Wilton's birthday (12/17).

+ + +

The sound system has hearing assists for those with hearing difficulties and may be used anywhere in the Sanctuary. Please see an usher for help.

+ + +

**Please call the church office at 614-486-0267
to include someone on this Prayer List.**

CALENDAR

Prayers for Joy and Concern

David Conner's father, Dean Conner – in hospital with complications from his pacemaker
Douglas Conner, son of David and Jane and brother of Rachel – at home
Craig and Gail, his wife – Craig diagnosed with stage 4 cancer
(friends of Lamar and Sandy Zigler)
Joni Brehens – extremely ill in ICU (friend of Pastor Charlotte)
Peggy and John Odum – Peggy is very ill with cancer and John has Parkinson's (Bonnie Grimm's cousin and husband)
For Merri Bame's family – her mother, Sue, is being released from a facility to live at home
Steve – recovery from back surgery (Sandy Zigler's brother)
Lee and his daughters' family – for healing (Lamar Zigler's brother)
Newborn twins of Carol and Chad Clawson – in NICU for two months, born 9 weeks early, but doing well (friends of Tim and Sue Harvey)
Employees of small stores in Columbus area targeted for armed robberies
Deb Kackley and her family – Deb is in hospice care (Allyson Engdahl)
Bill Frase – prayers of thanksgiving – cancer free!
Tom Neff (Sally Neff's son)
Rodger Lynch – recovery from surgery to remove cancerous mass (Charmaine and Mike Hamilton's friend)
David Reynolds – diagnosed with aortic aneurism (Pat Nicholson's great-nephew)
Jim Treadway – stage 4 colon cancer; chemotherapy (Jim and Kathie Bailey's nephew)
Former members Dan and Mary Headapohl and their daughter, Miranda
Eva Hills – recovery from stroke (Steve and Martha Hills' daughter-in-law)
Aunt Irma and Jennique – recovery from car accident (Mike Hamilton's 90-year-old aunt and cousin)
Wilmadeen Rieser – healing well and at home! (Mike McKinney's mother)
Gwen Jackson – receiving chemotherapy
Terri Randal – cancer has recurred (Bill Bell's friend)
Karla Holton – treatment for lung cancer (Charmaine Hamilton's friend)
Grace Parks – continued recovery from shingles
Spencer Schalip – medical concerns (Charmaine Hamilton's brother)
Amelia Hamilton – diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia (Charmaine and Mike Hamilton's granddaughter)
Tim Parks – Parkinson's disease (Jim Parks' son and Grace Parks' brother)
Maggie Evans – cancer (teenage friend of the Hamilton's)
Terry McFadden – Allen Oakwood Correctional
Jerry Braun – cancer (Mike McKinney's brother-in-law)
Tim McLane – continuing health issues (Mikie Bowles' brother)
Mark Nelson – for healing, comfort, and peace (Mikie's Bowles son-in-law)

Prayers for Our Special Care List

Glenn and Sara Beaber – at home
Ellen Buzzelli – Brookdale Senior Living
Barb Frautschi – Westminster-Thurber
Evelyn Hannaway – Friendship Village of Dublin
Helen Hoehl – memory care, Hilton Head Island, SC
Norma Kibbey – Westminster-Thurber Assisted Living
Brita and Norman Knapp – at home
Paul McCalla – Westminster-Thurber Assisted Living
Betty Sikking – at home

Sunday, December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Worship: Sanctuary
In-person and live-streamed on Facebook
11:00 am Coffee Hour: Lounge
11:00 am Classes for All Ages:
The Wonder of Christmas

Monday, December 13

6:30 pm Scouts BSA: Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 14

7:00 pm Grandview High School
Holiday Choral Concert:
Sanctuary
7:30 pm AA: Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 15

7:00 pm Mid-Winter's Night Service:
Chapel
7:30 pm NA: Room 111

Thursday, December 16

7:30 pm GA: Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Worship: Sanctuary
In-person and live-streamed on Facebook
11:00am Coffee Hour: Lounge
11:00 am Classes for All Ages:
The Wonder of Christmas

Attendance, December 5, 2021:

Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Charlotte O'Neil
Office Manager: Carol Fry
Music Coordinator: Mary Ann Stephens
Preschool Administrator: Mikie Bowles

**Boulevard Presbyterian Church
1235 Northwest Boulevard
Grandview Heights, OH 43212
614-486-0267
Fax: 614-486-2342
Email: office@blvdchurch.org
website: www.blvdchurch.org**

Advent and Christmas at Boulevard

2021 Advent Devotional

The devotionals are available in the Lounge. Thank you to those who organized, authored, typed, collated, assembled, and helped in any other way with this year's edition. It's truly a gift!



The Blessing Tree

Please take a moment to add your own wish to the Blessing Tree located in the Lounge. Let's fill it with thoughts and prayers, and pause to read and reflect on what others have shared.

Order Your Poinsettia through December 12

Poinsettia order envelopes are available in the Lounge. The cost of each plant is \$10.00. You can also call the church office at 614-486-0267. Please remember to write "Poinsettia" on the memo line of your check. The poinsettias will serve as memorials or in honor of loved ones whose names will be printed in the worship bulletins on Sunday, December 19, and Christmas Eve. If you would like to purchase or donate a poinsettia, we will accept orders through Sunday, December 12. The poinsettias may be taken home after Christmas Eve.



December 12 – Decorate the Tree!



All are invited, both young and 'young at heart', to help decorate the Sanctuary Christmas Tree with Chrismon ornaments following worship. You can grab a quick treat from the Lounge, help decorate, and still attend one of the ongoing Christian Education classes being offered for all ages. So, come and make it a family affair!

Wednesday, December 15 – "Mid-Winter's Night" Service, 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel

For some, this time of year presents emotional challenges, especially after experiencing loss or change. For others, the holidays are non-stop activity and noise. You are invited to come away from the overload by stilling yourself in the Chapel for a quiet, candlelit time of readings and prayer.



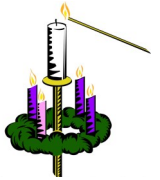
December 24 – Outdoor Luminaries Set-Up, 4:00 p.m.



Please come help set up outdoor luminaries around the church property for Christmas Eve. The church and the luminaries always look so cheerful and inviting on Christmas Eve. Boulevard's unique triangle-lot location makes us very visible to passers-by, so come and help us shine our lights for the community! Please call Alex McCormick to volunteer. 614-747-1082

December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, Child Care Available

Christmas Eve Worship returns with a candlelit "Lessons and Carols" service with Communion. For the service this year, you are invited to bring, wrapped in white tissue paper, gifts of personal hygiene items, toilet paper, tissues, feminine sanitary products, and diapers. Like the wisemen, you will have the opportunity during the service to come forward with your gifts and lay them by the manger to make a big, snowy pile. This will be a terrific 2022 jump-start to our ongoing "Significant Six" contributions to NNEMAP!



December 26 – First Sunday of Christmas



You may be inclined to stay in your matching holiday p.j.'s, but come celebrate Christ's birth on this last Sunday in 2021 with a casual worship service and carol sing. Grab a hymnal and call out your favorites! Kids (and their parents) may be tempted to bring blankets and settle in for a story right by the Sanctuary Christmas Tree!

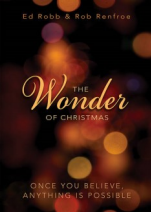
January 2 – Happy New Year! First Sunday in 2022!! Epiphany!!!

It's the start of a new year with all the possibility of the fresh hope of God's promises. Look forward to receiving a "Star Gift" during worship. A star gift is simply a star-shaped piece of paper with a word printed on it. You are asked to reflect on that word for the coming year. You are invited to ponder what personal significance this word might have, and how God might be speaking to you through this simple message. Often the words seem very timely, as if they were indeed designated for the recipient. It is this sense of providence and wondering that reminds us how God might be working in our lives throughout the year.



Announcements

“The Wonder of Christmas” Book Study ~ through December 19



Sometimes, as adults, we lose the wonder of Christmas. This year, in the craziness of shopping, wrapping, baking, decorating and more, give yourself the gift of a few minutes to breathe, clear your mind and focus on the true wonder of Christmas. Join your fellow “wonder seekers” in the Chapel after worship each Sunday from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. to stop, refresh your minds and allow the wonder of Christmas to once again dominate your heart and thoughts as we watch a short video and have a discussion led by Cindy McKay. In the Lounge, you can preview the study book for the series and sign up to order a copy. There are classes for all ages!

Grandview High School Holiday Choral Concert – Here at Boulevard!

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

The Concert Choir and The Grandview Singers will present their annual Holiday Concert at Boulevard this year! While Grandview’s high school building is under renovation, performance and athletic space has been at a premium. Boulevard is glad to be able to offer its space for the students to present this free concert, accompanied by our own Mary Ann Stephens!



Prayer Warriors, Arise!



The Faith Formation Committee is looking for people who are interested in starting a prayer group who will meet weekly to pray for the future mission/vision of Boulevard, our pastor nominating committee (both for those who will be called and to support them when their mission begins), and for the person whom God will call as our next pastor. This group would meet weekly in the Chapel, though people could attend as their schedules allowed. Day and time could be flexible depending on those who are interested in being involved. The time involved will probably be an hour at most and will be a time of meditation and prayer. If you are interested please contact Martha Hills at marthahills@mac.com or 614-364-5303. You can also indicate your interest on the friendship pads in the Sanctuary or by contacting the church office. We will begin meeting the first week of December.

White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity by Robert P. Jones

Mark your calendars for 2022 * January 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd (come to one or all)
11:00 am - Noon in the Chapel. Led by Kathie Bailey

Books can be purchased at your local book store, on-line or check it out at the library. Please join us even if you do not have an opportunity to read or finish the book.

With the unrest related to the Black Lives Matter movement of 2020, where do we stand on the issue of race in our church? Why is race still an issue in our country? Does the church play a part in the ongoing racial strife? If so, how?

The author has a PhD in religion from Emory University and an MDiv from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a frequent guest commentator on religious issues for The Atlantic, NPR, The New York Times, MSNBC, The Washington Post, and others. Come and let us explore this extremely volatile issue.

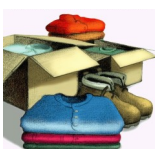
This class will be publicized to the Grandview Heights community. Please invite a friend.

MASKS ARE MANDATORY

Questions: Please contact one of the Faith Development Committee members: Alaina Engdahl, Charmaine Hamilton, Martha Hills and Jill Hooley



Westside Free Store Ministries Clothing Collection for Fall and Winter



Boulevard is now collecting fall and winter clothing for the Westside Free Store. WFSM is a faith-based organization designed to share resources, build relationships, and create community on Columbus’ west side. Since opening their doors in August 2004, they have become known as a hospitable community resource. Meals are served and guests may shop for clothes and small household items the three days a week they are open.

The Westside Free Store is always taking donations for gently used clothing and shoes for women, men and children, as well as small household items. Most needed right now are men's pants, blankets, and towels. New pillows and undergarments are always appreciated. Remember to donate clean clothing with all buttons, working zippers, and no stains. You may leave your items in the blue bin in the Lounge. For more information, contact Charmaine Hamilton at charmainehamilton@hotmail.com or 614-579-0622 (call or text).

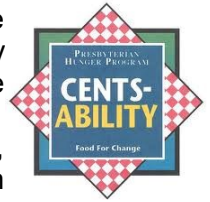
On-Going Contributions and Projects

Today is Cents-Ability Sunday!

Cents-Ability is a small first step in the battle against hunger and poverty. Congregations invite every member — of all ages — to contribute a few cents at every meal. Cents-Ability originated in 1976 as "Two-Cents-A-Meal," a project begun by Presbyterian Women to involve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger.

With your donations we have funded local and international hunger projects such as NNEMAP, the YWCA Family Center, PCUSA missionary support for the Heifer International project in Honduras, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program, to name a few.

Please remember to save your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters each day, then bring your change to church, and add it to the Cents-Ability jar on the information table in the Lounge!



Donate Plastic Bags for Plarn Mats



Carol Fry, our church secretary, has been making plarn mats for the homeless and underprivileged for many years. Plarn is plastic yarn made from plastic grocery bags. The mats are 3' x 6' and are taken to NNEMAP for distribution. Each mat uses 500-700 bags, keeping a LOT of bags out of the landfill, and the little bits of the bags that are cut off can still be recycled!

There is a trash can/recycle bin in the Lounge for plastic bags to be donated to this mission. Please donate only "crinkly" grocery bags. Target, Kroger, Meijer, Giant Eagle, Dollar General, Walmart—all of these are good for mats. "Stretchy" plastic bags that are similar to trash bags or thick plastic bags like Arbys or Wendys can all be taken to the recycling bins at Giant Eagle.

Layette Project Helps New Parents in Our Community

Linda Wilton continues to coordinate the collecting of items for the Layette Project through Church Women United that provides basic baby needs to parents that don't have the resources to provide for their little ones. You can help by donating supplies for needy families in our local community.



Most needed items: Baby clothing from newborn up to one year, new or gently used;
Small bottles of lotion, shampoo, powder; Small containers of wipes.
Please, no large economy sizes of bottles or wipes.

Please bring your items to church and drop them off in the wicker basket in the Narthex or contact Linda Wilton at 614-486-4233. Thank you for your generosity.

Collecting Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House



Boulevard's pull tabs collection was begun a few years ago through the Presbyterian Women's Group. Even though the PW was disbanded, Linda Mahoney continues to encourage collecting aluminum pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House at Children's Hospital. To date we have contributed over 100 pounds. The profits they receive from recycling them are used to offset various expenditures of the house. We currently have a large collection house in the Lounge. A large house is also in Fellowship Hall. Hopefully this captures participation from the groups that utilize this area during the week. There are also small houses on each floor of Thurber Tower. There are small collection houses for individual home use on the table in the Lounge. It may seem small but all the donations add up and are greatly appreciated.

Support Boulevard When You Shop at Kroger

Swipe your Plus Card and Boulevard earns a percentage of your total! We currently only have 10-14 households regularly taking advantage of this opportunity to easily support Boulevard's many important missions.

Sign up online at: <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/>



Use Your Amazon Purchases to Benefit Boulevard Presbyterian Church

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Boulevard receives a 0.5% charitable donation based on the price of all eligible purchases made through Boulevard's link on Amazon Smile. You can use the link at the bottom of Boulevard's webpage (blvdchurch.org): *Support Boulevard Presbyterian Church / Shop at smile.amazon.com* or google Amazon Smile to support Boulevard in your shopping. And now you can donate from the Amazon app!