

"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!"

Boulevard Presbyterian Church

1ST Sunday of Christmas

10:00am Worship Service

December 31, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Tiffany Komasa

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 90)

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and prosper for us the work of our hands —O prosper the work of our hands!

ALL: Let us worship God!

*HYMN 140

"Once in Royal David's City"

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we look back and recognize the many ways we have fallen short of your glory: missed opportunities to share your love; times when we were silent when we could have spoken up for what was right; indifference to your claim on our whole lives through Jesus Christ; and a lack of gratitude for your amazing grace by which you save us and call us to be your people. Lord, forgive us. As we look ahead to a new year, free us from thinking we can save ourselves. Help us to follow where you lead. Show us how to be your children and your heirs, forgiven and freed to live for our God and for one another in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

*HYMN OF GLORY

"This Little Light of Mine"

MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Psalm 27 (pg. 437)

SECOND READING Matthew 5:13-16 (pg. 786)

MESSAGE

“Let Your Light Shine”
Rev. Tiffany Komasa and Deacon Alex McCormick

Original script by Eddie James © Skit Guys, Inc. Adapted by Rev. Casey Wilson, Century Methodist, Granville, Ohio and further adapted by Rev. Tiffany Komasa.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“Boxed”

by Ann Weems

From Ann Weems book of Christmas poetry, “Kneeling in Bethlehem”

LEFT PEWS: I must admit a certain guilt about stuffing the Holy Family into a box in the aftermath of Christmas. It’s frankly a time of personal triumph when, each Advent’s eve, I free them (and the others) from a year’s imprisonment boxed in the dark of our basement.

RIGHT PEWS: Out they come, one by one, struggling through the straw, last year’s tinsel still clinging to their robes. Nevertheless, they appear, ready to take their place again in the light of another Christmas.

LEFT: The Child is first because he’s the one I’m most reluctant to box. Attached forever to his cradle, he emerges, apparently unscathed from the time he spent upside down to avoid the crush of the lid.

RIGHT: His mother, eternally dressed blue, still gazes adoringly, in spite of the fact that her features are somewhat smudged.

LEFT: Joseph has stood for eleven months, holding valiantly what’s left of his staff, broken twenty Christmases ago by a child who hugged a little too tightly.

RIGHT: The Wise Ones still travel, though not quite so elegantly, the standing camel having lost its back leg and the sitting camel having lost one ear. However, gifts intact, they are ready to move.

LEFT: The shepherds, walking or kneeling, sometimes confused with Joseph (who wears the same dull brown), tumble forth, followed by three sheep in very bad repair. There they are again, not a grand set surely, but one the children (and now grandchildren) can touch and move about to reenact that silent night.

RIGHT: When the others return, we will wind the music box on the back of the stable and light the Advent candles and go once more to Bethlehem.

ALL: And this year, when it’s time to pack the figures away, we’ll be more careful that the Peace and Goodwill are not also boxed for another year!

OFFERTORY

*HYMN OF THANKS 647

“Give Thanks”

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious and giving God, we give thanks to you for you are good. Your steadfast love endures forever. We thank you for the blessings of the past year and for how you have stood with us and guided us in difficult times. We give thanks that you will stand with us and guide us in the year to come. Bless these offerings that they may be used to your glory and in service to others in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Help us to have grateful hearts and to live as the joyful people of God; through Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAYER 842**

"The Lord Is My Light" Theme 1

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.

***CLOSING HYMN 744**

"Arise, Your Light Has Come!"

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

***Liturgy based on "Worship for December 31, 2023" by Philip K. Gladden and provided for free distribution by the Presbyterian Outlook, © 2023.**

Worship Leader: George Ells

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Elder of the Month: Kevin Hicks

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Nursery Care Available for Worship!

The Nursery is available from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. on Sunday Mornings during the worship service. The Nursery is not currently available during the education hour. With more volunteers, we will be able to provide care in the Nursery for the second hour. To volunteer, please contact Sue Harvey (614-216-5884). Thank you for caring for our most precious members.

Worship Service Attendance: December 17, 68

December 24, 10:00AM 57 December 24, 6:00PM 67 December 24, 8:00PM 68

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Tiffany Komasa

Music Coordinator: Mary Ann Stephens Office Manager: Jeanette Gonzalez

Preschool Administrator: Mikie Bowles Financial Officer: Yang Wu

BOULEVARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1235 Northwest Boulevard, Grandview Heights, OH 43212 614-486-0267 Fax: 614-486-2342

THIS WEEK AT BOULEVARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

12/31) Sunday New Year's Eve 10:00am Worship Service in-person & live-streamed on Facebook.			
01/01) Monday <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i> <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR</i> <i>2024</i>	1/02) Tuesday 7:00pm EDG 7:30 AA Meeting	1/03) Wednesday 9:30am Quilters 7:00pm-9:pm NA	1/04) Thursday
1/05) Friday	1/06) Saturday		
01/07) Sunday 10:00am Worship Service in-person & live-streamed on Facebook After Worship Service: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Elections of Deacons and Elders White Gifts: You are invited to bring white tissue wrapped gifts of personal care items			



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS JANUARY

Date:	Member:	Date:	Member:
1/1	Jaqui Walli	1/10	Everest Osborne
1/5	Charmaine Hamilton	1/10	Mary Ann Stockum
1/6	Allyson Engdahl	1/14	Grace Parks
1/7	Shirley Wagner	1/25	Sue Harvey
1/10	Ethan Dray	1/31	Ella Louise Conner



PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

Prayer asked from:	For:
	Michael Hamilton: Healing Prayers as he undergoes radiation treatment for prostate cancer.
	Kathy Chaffin: Prayers for healing, issues with her eyes and vision.
Grace Parks	Cousin Julie Bottomley: Recently diagnosed with aggressive stage IV sarcoma. Brother Tim: Parkinson's disease.
	Grace Parks: Pray for healing.
	Sandy Ferguson: Prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude for support.
	Jody Huggins: Sprained Knee. Prayers for healing.
Michael and Charmaine Hamilton	Friend, Karla Holton: medical issues and cancer. Healing Prayers.
	Bill Gamble: Prayers for healing.
	Jill Hooley: Prayers for healing following surgery on October 11.
	Dave Grimm: medical issues. Prayers for healing.
Leah Hanesworth	Pray for healing for Leah's neighbors and friends, Berniece (colon cancer), and John (cancer of the mouth).
Carol McFadden	Alma Harding, mother of one of Carol's co-workers: After her brain bleed Alma is now in a retirement center with her family around her.
Pat Nicholson	Prayers for Granddaughter Stephanie and husband Corey Sander: healing for Corey's brain cancer.
Melissa and Michael Schmidt	Michael's sister: Caroline, cancer has returned.
Kathie Bailey	Brother Mike: pancreatic cancer.
Tim and Sue Harvey	Dear friend Walt: recently diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer; dearest friend's daughter, Devon: breast cancer.
Charmaine and Michael Hamilton	Granddaughter Amelia Hamilton: has Friedreich's Ataxia, now transitioning into a wheelchair. Charmaine's brother, Spencer: medical concerns; Friend Fred Heald: Continued healing prayer. Recuperating from heart surgery.
Bonnie Grimm	Bonnie's cousin's husband, John Odum: has Parkinson's Disease.
Mikie Bowles	Brother, Tim McLane: has health issues.
	Terry McFadden: in Allen Oakwood Correctional Facility.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE LIST

Members:		Members:	
Glenn Beaber	Willow Brook	Brita Knapp	Home
Tom Hayes	The Forum-Assisted Living	Betty Sikking	Home
Mary Ann Stockum	The Forum-Assisted Living	Bill and Katy Frase:	Home

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY

On January 7, 2024 after the 10 a.m. worship service, a congregational meeting will be held for the purpose of electing members to the Session, Board of Deacons and Nominating committee. Additional business may include reports from the Mission Commission regarding implementing Matthew 25, and an update from the Finance Committee on our Stewardship Campaign and 2024 Budget. All interested parties should plan to stay, and active members are strongly encouraged to attend and vote.



WHITE GIFTS NEXT SUNDAY

On Epiphany Sunday, January 7th, you are invited to bring white tissue wrapped gifts of personal care items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, bars of soap, razors, feminine hygiene products, or bath tissue rolls), and lay them in front of Boulevard's Chrismon tree. It will make a great pile of snowy gifts. Personal care items are always requested by the customers of food pantries and are typically in short supply there.

All donations will be taken to the NNEMAP food pantry in January. This will assist the pantry meet a critical need for the start of the new year. If you have any question please email Marlin Cheney: cheyneyh@gmail.com

Have More 2024 Wall Calendars than needed?

If you have received many 2024 wall calendars and have little use for the 'extras,' the customers at the NNEMAP food pantry scoop them up in a jiffy when available. Just place any 'extra' calendars in the NNEMAP wooden box in the lounge and know that they will be greatly received. Thank you Marlin Cheney

TERRY MCFADDEN

I want to thank all who have included Terry in your prayers, sent notes to him and asked about him at church. Your loving kindness is very much appreciated. In case you don't have his address, and you want to send him a note or Christmas Card, his address is:

Terry McFadden
A775167
PO Box 4501
Lima, Ohio 45802
With a grateful heart, Carol



CHURCH'S FACEBOOK

The church's formal Facebook page (called Boulevard Presbyterian Church) currently has 154 followers. The Church's Facebook Group page (called Boulevard Pres Church Group) has 206 members. Consider joining these social media pages to stay more informed about happenings and events. Thank you ~ Mac Swinford.

FLOWERS (FOR SANCTUARY)

At this time, we are no longer having weekly fresh flowers in our Sanctuary. If you wish to place a special order for flowers to dedicate, please let Jeanette know in advance so that she can order them. The price will remain the same \$50.00

COMMUNION FOR OUR HOME BOUND MEMBERS

Please prayerfully consider being a part of this ministry. Two people will team up to go to our home bound members to serve communion and visit with them. If this is something you haven't tried before, please consider going out in this very safe environment and trying something new. If you are a beginner at this, you will be paired with an experienced server. Please contact Kim Welter at kwelter.200@gmail.com or 419-410-0156, to be a part of this very special ministry

COFFEE HOUR HOSTING NEEDED

Looking for a way to volunteer? No long-term commitment needed! Make coffee AND / OR provide goodies on Sunday. Sign up for a single Sunday or multiple Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchenette. Email: Office@blvdchurch.org/website:www.blvdchurch.org