



The First Sunday of Advent | WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING
YOU ARE A BLESSING Luke 1:26-38 | Isaiah 43:1-7

BOULEVARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SANCTUARY

December 1, 2024 10:00 a.m.

*Please rise in body and/or spirit as is your preference where you see an asterisk.

PRELUDE

“Creator of the Stars of Night”
By Dennis Zimmer

Tom Kolar

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Merri Bame & Kim Welter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Tiffany Komasaara

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Merri Bame

God says, “**Do not be afraid.**”

God says, “**I have called you by name.**”

God says, “**I will be with you.**”

God says, “**You are precious and honored in my sight.**”

At the beginning of this season, at the start of this week, at the top of this hour, may we wrap ourselves in these words. May we begin again.

Let us worship our Holy God!

*OPENING HYMN 84

“Creator of the Stars at Night” stanza 1 Darius McBride, cantor
(Congregation joins in singing stanzas 2 and 3)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Tiffany Komasaara

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Affirming God, your first words to creation were words of love.

You looked at this earth and said, “It is good.”

You spoke affirmations through the prophets.

You spoke blessings over Mary.

You spoke belonging through Christ.

At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love.

Forgive us for forgetting this truth.

Forgive us for measuring our worth by society’s measuring stick instead of yours.

(moment of silent confession)

We believe. Help our unbelief. **In Christ’s name we pray, amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God says, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”

We are forgiven. We are loved.

Let it leave you awestruck. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you! **And also, with you!**

*HYMN OF GLORY 84

“Creator of the Stars at Night” stanza 4

MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Tiffany Komasara

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Merri Bame

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Isaiah 43:1-7*

43 But now, this is what the Lord says—
he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.

3 For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I give Egypt for your ransom,
Cush[a] and Seba in your stead.

4 Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
and because I love you,
I will give people in exchange for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

5 Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bring your children from the east
and gather you from the west.

6 I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’
and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’
Bring my sons from afar
and my daughters from the ends of the earth—

7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**



**WHEN YOU PASS
THROUGH THE WATERS**

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Inspired by Isaiah 43:1-7

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

28 The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and Wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

33 and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

34 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[a] the Son of God.

36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

37 For no word from God will ever fail.”

38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.



FAVORED ONE

by Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Luke 1:26-38

MESSAGE “Go Small”

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Elder Merri Bame

OFFERTORY “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”
Arr. By Craig Courtney

Chancel Choir
Darius McBride,

Director

*HYMN OF THANKS 643 “Now Thank We All Our God” stanza 1

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, may we continue to give thanks for all that you have given us and all that you continue to make possible for us. Take what we have offered here and use it to draw us into relationship with those in need. Remind us that every good thing comes from you and belongs to you. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Tiffany Komasa

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you!**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

"Little Partita for Advent"
James Woodman

Tom Kolar

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God, sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again. We think the world is too far gone. We think we have made too many mistakes. We tell ourselves that we couldn't possibly begin again. But then we come to this Table and we get a glimpse of your kingdom. We come to this Table and all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed. And just like that, we have hope. Just like that, we begin again. Thank you for the gift of this fresh start. Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones. Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice to remind us that it's never too late to build your kingdom here. We are grateful. We are so grateful. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN 99

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Veni, Emmanuel"
By Lani Smith

Tom Kolar

Liturgy from "Words for the Beginning" by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

TO THOSE HELPING WITH TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Worship Leader: Merri Bame Usher Captain: Jodi Huggins Elder of the Month: Tim Harvey
Worship Service Attendance for November 24, 2024 - 52

BOULEVARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (Blvdchurch.org)
1235 Northwest Boulevard, Grandview Heights, OH 43212
614-486-0267 Fax: 614-486-2342
Office Hours M-Th 10:00am to 4 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Tiffany Komasa – pastor@blvdchurch.org
Office Manager: Jeanette Gonzalez – office@blvdchurch.org
Music Director: Darius McBride Organist: Tom Kolar

Financial Officer: Valerie Bosworth- finance@blvdchurch.org Preschool Administrator: Melissa Schauss

PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

Prayer asked from:	For:
	For family and friends of Mary Ann Stockum on her passing. A Celebration of Life will be on December 12 at 11 a.m., with visitation beginning at 10.
Sandy	Sister Pat: in recovery after surgery for DVT. Prayers for healing
Jeanette	Cousin Joe Rosa: cancer has returned. Prayers for healing
	Friends and Family of Mary Ann Stockum on her passing Wednesday Nov. 20th
	Ginny Achtermann: pray for healing
Bill Gamble	Sister's cancer has returned: prayers for healing.
	Michael McKinney: pray for healing
	Judy Pierce: prayers for healing.
Grace Parks	Cousin Julie Bottomley: aggressive stage IV sarcoma. Brother Tim: Parkinson's disease.
Michael and Charmaine Hamilton	Granddaughter: Amelia Hamilton, rare disease of Friedreich's ataxia: brother Spencer and friends, Fred Heald and Karla Holton - ongoing medical concerns.
	Dave Grimm: prayers for healing.
Leah Hanesworth	Pray for healing for Leah's neighbors and friends, Berniece (colon cancer), and John (cancer of the mouth).
Pat Nicholson	Prayers for Granddaughter Stephanie and husband Corey Sander: healing for Corey's brain cancer.
Kathie Bailey	Brother Mike: pancreatic cancer.
Bonnie Grimm	Bonnie's cousin's husband, John Odum: has Parkinson's Disease.
	Terry McFadden: in Allen Oakwood Correctional Facility.
Carol McFadden	Carol's sister, Susan Wright: prayers for healing.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SPECIAL CARE LIST

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

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

Date:	Member:	Date:	Member
12/1	Bruce "Smitty" Smith	12/25	Emersyn Hicks
12/4	Linda Mahoney	12/27	Carol Kizer, Kyme Rennick
12/14	Vincent Nobel	12/28	Beryl Bunn
12/17	Linda Wilton, W. Garret Hunt, Sebastian Hunt	12/29	Eric Engdahl
12/23	Garrett Culbertson, Barbara Rine		

THIS WEEK AT BOULEVARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

12 /1) Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship service in-person & live-streamed on Facebook; -Food Collection: Mac & Cheese & Saltine Crackers -We Wonder for Ages 4-7. Children attend 10:00 am worship through the Children’s Message, then go to the window room connected to the nursery. -Intergenerational Faith Development Activity-Making a Faith Montage (in the lounge after worship)			
12/2) Monday 9:30am Pre-School Rehearsal in Sanctuary 6:30pm Cub Scouts	12/3) Tuesday 9:30am Pre-School Rehearsal in Sanctuary 6:30pm Worship Committee 7:00pm EDA 7:30pm AA	12/4) Wednesday 9:30am Pre-School Rehearsal in Sanctuary 9:00 Quilters 6:30pm Cub scouts 7:30pm NA	12/5) Thursday 9:30am Pre-School Rehearsal in Sanctuary 7:30 GA Meetings
12/6) Friday Office Closed		12/7 Saturday	
12/08 Sunday 10:00 am worship service in-person & live-streamed on Facebook; -Food Collection: Black or Baked Beans or any Food Items from previous weeks -Faith Development after worship: learn more about our mission partner Neighborhood Services (NSI) - Director Martin Butler talks about the impact of Christmas Food Boxes and more!			

Nursery Care Available for Worship!

The Nursery is available from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. on Sunday Mornings during the worship service. We need more volunteers to staff our nursery so we can offer care after worship and give our regular volunteers the opportunity to attend worship. Please contact Sue Harvey (614-216-5884) if you can give your time this way. All volunteers will be trained on the church’s child safety policy and background checked.

Operating Budget Snapshot for October 2024					
	Month of	Budget	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Total
	October	October	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 9,804.60	\$ 19,075.00	\$ 193,837.49	\$ 190,750.00	\$ 228,900.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 31,703.22	\$ 30,048.74	\$ 286,529.21	\$ 300,487.40	\$ 360,585.00
Net	\$ (21,898.62)	\$ (10,973.74)	\$ (92,691.72)	\$ (109,737.40)	\$ (131,685.00)
October 2023 Comparison					
	Month of	Budget	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Total
	October	October	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 15,363.45	\$ 18,948.00	\$ 194,610.64	\$ 189,480.00	\$ 227,377.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 27,083.71	\$ 26,454.00	\$ 247,219.22	\$ 263,100.00	\$ 315,977.00
Net	\$ (11,720.26)	\$ (7,506.00)	\$ (52,608.58)	\$ (73,620.00)	\$ (88,600.00)

IT’S STEWARDSHIP SEASON This Fall, your pledges will put leaves back onto our Stewardship Tree as we together aim for our goal of \$275,000 to support our 2025 operating budget. As of Nov. 13, we have received 44 pledges committing over \$135,000 towards that goal!! Please prayerfully consider the value of Boulevard Church to you, your household and our community and make your pledge. Additional pledge packets are available in the lounge or contact the church office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAVE A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING

(picture below is the puzzle that was completed by our members in our lounge)



Christmas Community Care Packages

Thank you for your continuing support of the Christmas Box Project. The schedule for the remaining week is as follows: December 8 Black or Baked Beans or any Food Items from previous weeks.

Please deliver all donations to Fellowship Hall and place them on the table marked "CHRISTMAS BOX DONATIONS." Or if doing so is difficult for you, please put them in the wooden box by the mission bulletin board in the lounge and we will move them to Fellowship Hall. Monetary donations are also welcome if that is easier. Please mark your check "Christmas boxes" and place it in the offering or drop it off at the church office. Thank you so much for supporting this important ministry. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Jane Swinford at swinfordjane@gmail.com.

THE PROPERTY TEAM invites you to the Nativity Scene setup beginning Saturday, November the 30th, at 10:00AM on the Northwest Boulevard side of the church. This annual gathering lasts about 1.5 hours. Cider, coffee, donuts and a chiminea fire will make it even more fun. There are many tasks that need to be done and lots of help will make it go fast. Come join us as we celebrate the beginning of Advent in a special way. Remember the more the merrier. With more hands on, we call all get back home with more than enough time to watch the Michigan Game. Don't forget your coat, scarf and gloves as it will be nippy.

HEIFER FOR CHRISTMAS: As we have done in the past, we will be extending our Heifer collection until December 10 in case anyone would like to give Heifer animals to those hard-to-buy-gifts-for friends and family. Allyson Engdahl has Heifer Christmas cards if you would like one, and they will be available in the lounge December 1 & December 8.

NOW HIRING: CHILD CARE PROVIDER We are still in need of volunteers to staff our Nursery during worship and the education hour. We are also seeking to hire an experienced childcare provider to provide continuity from week to week and give our regular volunteers a break. If you can volunteer, or know someone who would be interested in our childcare staff position, please contact Pastor Tiffany or Personnel Committee member Tim Harvey. All volunteers and staff must undergo a background check and be trained on our Child Safety Policy.

SING WITH US Thursdays 7:15-8:45 Chancel Choir rehearses in the sanctuary. All voice types and levels of musicianship are welcome to join! Questions? Talk to Choir Director Darius McBride.

Environmentally speaking . . . RECYCLE your cups (no Styrofoam) from your favorite coffee shop or fast food restaurants. **TRASH** - lids and straws from the cups. Please **EMPTY** all liquids prior to placing them in the recycle or trash containers. Thank you, Charmaine Hamilton.

REALM IS HERE **Realm** is a data management platform for communicating, organizing groups, scheduling meetings and events and sharing documents and other information. If you have not yet received an email inviting you to join Realm, please check your spam folder, or call the office to have a new email sent. You should also be receiving the weekly bulletin by email from Realm. If it's going to your junk mail, try adding notifications@onrealmmail.org to your contacts.

GIVING STATEMENTS were mailed out last week through Realm. Realm participants can also view their giving any time once you set up a Realm account. If you still need a copy of your giving statement, please contact the church office to have one sent to you in the mail.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT BOULEVARD Our family friendly "No Rehearsals" Christmas Pageant is back for the 6 p.m. service, with music from organist Tom Kolar and the Boulevard Lounge Singers. At 8 p.m., we'll have our traditional candlelight Lessons and Carols with the Chancel Choir. Bring your family to share this special night with our family of faith!



Gifts for the Holidays 2024!

Gratefully accepting donations of **NEW, UNWRAPPED GIFTS** for Children

***Donors Like You Helped NNEMAP Food Pantry Provide Gifts for Nearly 1,400 Kids in 2022!

We Need Your Help Again!!***

Gift Suggestions or Scan QR code

- Footballs, Basketballs, Soccer Balls, Other Sports Equipment
- Dolls and Stuffed Animals • Board Games • Kitchen Toys • Art Supplies
- Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Socks • Watches, Costume Jewelry, Nail Polish
- OSU / Team Apparel • Ear Buds / Headphones • Fragrances / Cologne / Perfume
- Remote Control / Battery-Powered Toys (and Batteries!)

DELIVER GIFTS MON., DECEMBER 2 thru SAT., DECEMBER 14 TO...

NNEMAP Food Pantry • 677 E. 11th Ave • Columbus, OH 43211

(NOTE: DELIVERIES ACCEPTED BETWEEN 10AM AND 1PM MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY. TO MAKE ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS, PLEASE CALL 614-297-0533)

Cash donation? Visit NNEMAPPantry.org/give or mail a check to NNEMAP, Inc. to the address above

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

***The Gift Shoppe is Open December 16 thru December 19, 2024, 9am-1pm
Hosted by Travelers Rest Baptist Church 1533 Cleveland Ave • Col, OH 43211***

TO VOLUNTEER: Please contact Roy Clark at director@nnemappantry.org or call 614-297-0533

THANK YOU FOR HELPING MAKE THE HOLIDAYS A SPECIAL TIME FOR OUR YOUNGEST CUSTOMERS!

