

The Fourth Sunday of Advent | words for the beginning HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK *Matthew 1:18-25 | Luke 1:46-55*

BOULEVARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SANCTUARY

December 22, 2024 10:00 a.m.

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

PRELUDE

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”
By Robert J. Powell

Tom Kolar
Flute, Diane Cattran

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

The Murdick Family

A: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

B: Let us begin with hope. Let us begin with peace. Let us begin with joy. Let us begin with love.

A: Yes, let us start with love.

B: Today we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. May the warmth of these lights be our cornerstone. May the truth in these lights help us begin again.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Tiffany Komasaara

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sandy Ferguson

In this weary world, **we sing of joy.**

In this fragile world, **we lift each other up.**

In this beautiful world, **we look for God.**

In this tender world, **we hold onto hope.**

This is the invitation of faith.

So, in this time of worship, may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.

With hope in our hearts, amen!

OPENING HYMN 108

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” stanza 1 - all
stanza 2 - choir, 3 - women, 4 - men, 5 - all

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Tiffany Komasaara

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you paint pictures of what could be, but we declare those visions impossible. You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb, but we spout skepticism and uncertainty. You dream of a more just day, but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon. Forgive us for losing sight of hope. Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is. Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it. Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams, and to not be afraid of either. With gratitude we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

*SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

La Paz del señor! Y Tambien contigo! The peace of the Lord be with you! **And also, with you!**

HYMN OF GLORY 108

“OF the Father’s Love Begotten” verse 6

MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

“Jesus Mom and Dad”

Rev. Tiffany Komasaara

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Sandy Ferguson

FIRST SCRIPTURE *Matthew 1:18-25*

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us")

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



JOSEPH'S DREAM
by Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Matthew 1:18-25

SECOND READING *Luke 3:7-16*

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

8 Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

9 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

10 And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?"

11 In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise."

12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

13 He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you."

14 Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

15 As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.



MAGNIFY
by Hannah Garrity
Inspired by Luke 1:46-55

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

MESSAGE

"Hope is Worth the Risk"

Rev. Tiffany Komasa

BAPTISM OF HEIDI SUE SCHAFFER

PRESENTATION

Elder Kevin Hicks

On behalf of the session, I present Heidi Sue Schaffer to receive the sacrament of Baptism.

Minister: (to parents) Do you desire your daughter to be baptized (I do)

Minister: Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith, loving one another and teaching that faith to one another? (We do)

Minister: (to Family/Sponsors) do you promise to love Heidi and her parents and through prayer and example, to nurture, support and encourage them to be faithful Christians? (we do)

Minister (addresses congregation): Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Ellie by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of this church? (**We do**)

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sins and renounce evil and its power in the word? (I do)

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and Love? (I do)

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? (I will)

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

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

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

HYM 492

"You Belong to Christ"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope, a God who fills our nights with stars, who follows winter with spring, who dwells with and among us. We believe that this God has dreams for creation, dreams of justice like a mighty stream and swords that will be beaten into plowshares. Therefore, we push cynicism aside. We risk vulnerability. We hold onto hope, and we declare: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Sandy Ferguson

OFFERTORY

"Kneeling at the Manger "
By Hank Beebe

Chancel Choir
Darius McBride, Director

HYMN 492

"In the bleak Midwinter" Stanza 4
**What can I give him, poor as I am:
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Creator God, we thank you for making us who we are; for giving us all that we have and for risking everything for our salvation. We pray you accept all that we have offered - and all that we have held back - that our gifts and our very lives may be used according to your will. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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 110

"Love Has Come"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Savior of the Nations"

Tom Kolar

By Helmut Walcha

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

Pastor Tiffany will be away December 26 - January 2, returning January 3, 2025.

TO THOSE HELPING WITH TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Worship Leader: Sandy Ferguson Usher Captain: Ian Rennick Elder of the Month: Tim Harvey
Worship Service Attendance for December 15, 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:
	From Nancy Human and Alex McCormick: We like to thank you for all your concerns, prayers, and phone calls during our difficult time.
	Grace Parks: pray for healing.
	Linda Wilton: pray for healing.
	Jody Higgins: prayers for healing.
	Sue Harvey: prayers for healing.
Jeanette	Cousin Joe Rosa: cancer has returned. Prayers for healing
	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	12/31	Joe Mattiaccy

THIS WEEK AT BOULEVARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

12 /22) Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship service in-person & live-streamed on Facebook; -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. -Faith Development: Reception for the Schafer Family in the Lounge, after service			
12/23) Monday 6:30pm Cub Scouts	12/24) Tuesday 6:00pm “No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant” 8:00pm Traditional Candlelight and service	12/25) Wednesday <b style="color: red; font-size: 1.2em;">MERRY CHRISTMAS  Office Closed	12/26) Thursday 7:30 GA Meetings
12/27) Friday		12/28 Saturday	
12/29 Sunday 10:00 am worship service in-person & live-streamed in Chapel; -A Special Worship Service “Lessons and Laughter” with CRE, Cindy McKay			

Operating Budget Snapshot - November 2024

	Month of	Budget	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Total
	November	November	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 41,912.28	\$ 19,075.00	\$ 235,749.77	\$ 209,825.00	\$ 228,900.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 23,516.12	\$ 30,048.74	\$ 310,045.33	\$ 330,536.14	\$ 360,585.00
Net	\$ 18,396.16	\$ (10,973.74)	\$ (74,295.56)	\$ (120,711.14)	\$ (131,685.00)
November 2023 Comparison					
	Month of	Budget	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Total
	November	November	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 11,136.07	\$ 18,948.00	\$ 205,746.71	\$ 208,428.00	\$ 227,377.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 23,088.65	\$ 26,454.00	\$ 270,307.87	\$ 289,554.00	\$ 315,977.00
Net	\$ (11,952.58)	\$ (7,506.00)	\$ (64,561.16)	\$ (81,126.00)	\$ (88,600.00)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

LESSONS AND LAUGHTER December 29 Cindy McKay will lead our 10 a.m. worship service the Sunday after Christmas, with a special “Lessons and Laughter” service in the Chapel. Pastor Tiffany will be away December 26 - January 2, returning January 3, 2025.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT after worship resumes January 5 with our traditional Epiphany Sunday “Three Kings Bread” celebration. Then on January 12, we'll begin our study of Amy Jill-Levine's “Sermon on the Mount: a Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven.” This multi-week study features video lectures and a companion book that you may want to order or borrow.



Nearly 60 years ago, neighbors from 12 churches in the University District came together to create NSI to address hunger in our community. And while NSI has no religious affiliation, our daily work continues to be rooted in our founders' belief that we must love our neighbors as ourselves.

Food..

Rent assistance...

Help with utilities...

Generosity from friends like you fulfills our community's critical needs. **Will you support your neighbors by making a gift to NSI? In this time of great uncertainty, especially for the most vulnerable in our community, your support is more important than ever!** In this time of great uncertainty, especially the most vulnerable in our community, **your support is more important than ever!** Thank you for your deep care for our community.

For more information, go to <https://www.nsifoodpantry.org/>.

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.

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.

PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS FOR WHITE GIFT BAGS



Boulevard's Chrismon Tree

For the worship service on Epiphany Sunday, January 5th, you are invited to fill a white gift bag (available in the lounge) with personal care items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, bars of soap, razors, feminine hygiene products, or bath tissue rolls), and place the bag 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.



In loving Memory & Honor of

In memory of:	With love from:
Clinton & Bobbie Yerkes: parents Glen & Wilma Zigler: parents Evelyn Peck, Tony Dray	Lamar, Sandy and Family
Earl and Betty Schulz: parents	Carol McFadden
Robert & Lloria LeFevre Sarah Kathryn LeFevre	Sally LeFevre and Family
Ted Rennick: father Robert & Julia Wall: parents	Ian and Kyme Rennick
Ted Rennick: Husband	Ellen Rennick
David Agler: son	Fred and Carol Agler
MaryAnn Stockum	Blvd Family
Noah King	Blvd Family
Anibal & Conchita Archilla: parents	William, Jeanette and Family
Jim and Joyce Parks: parents	Grace and Tim Parks
Dwane & Donna Elliott: parents Karen Case & Ray Hooley: parents Cheryl Elliott: sister	Dan and Jill Hooley
Bill Frase: husband and father William & Mary Frase: parents William & Florence Goshorn: parents	Katy Frase and Family
In Honor of:	With love from
William Gonzalez, husband & dad	Jeanette Gonzalez and Family
Elise, Matt, Eliza, Deidra, Kreig, Gus, Maeve, Levi: grandchildren	Dan and Jilly Hooley

