

GATHERING

Prelude to Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Interlude

* Call to Worship

Awake!

The invitation to carry light comes from the God of trembling mountains and shaking foundations.

O God, your expectations terrify us.

How can our small selves

hold your blazing presence?

(pause for silence)

Quiet our questioning souls.

Lead us beyond our resistance.

Let it be.

Lighting of Advent Candle

Opening Prayer

PRAISING GOD* Hymn *Praise the One who breaks the darkness* STS 1

Offering

Hymn *O come, o come Immanuel* HWB 172**PROCLAIMING**

Woodworker's Visit

Scripture Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

Sermon

Reflection

RESPONDING* Hymn of Response *O Savior, rend the heavens* HWB 175

Confession

O God of power and might,

**we want you to tear open the heavens and come down,
yet we tremble and quake at the thought.**

**We confess that even though we know your light,
we do not like the dark, empty void**

where your Spirit hovers over the waters.

We shake like leaves in the wind,

fearful of what you might ask,

afraid to trust you completely.

Caught up in the swirling of our world

we struggle to "let it be."

Forgive us, O God.

(pause for silence)

Words of Assurance

O God, Emmanuel,

in Jesus, the Christ, you have come among us.

You have given us life, and we are restored.

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SENDING* Sending Hymn *Don't be afraid* STJ 105

* Benediction

Postlude

* *All who are able are invited to stand where indicated.*

Our worship ends after the postlude; please remain seated.

HWB – blue hymnal STS – purple hymnal STJ – green hymnal

*Preacher: Charles Bontrager Worship Leader: Kenny Rohrer
Accompanist: John Gamin*

Don't miss the Wadsworth Community Band and Chorus concert **today** at 2:00pm, at O.J. work auditorium downtown. It includes a lovely solo by Megan Croyle!

Today the 29th year of "**Search for the Christ Child**" will be held at Oak Grove Mennonite from 5:30-7:30pm. Dress warmly! Admission: one article of canned food or toiletries for People to People Ministries. Everyone is welcome!

Wednesday 6:00pm you are invited to a **Fellowship Meal** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share as we become better acquainted in a casual setting.(Choir rehearsal will follow.)

You are all invited to join the joint Summit/First Mennonite **Christmas Choir** directed by Lowell Nofziger, which will perform

during our Christmas Eve service here at First. Practices will be Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th beginning at 7pm after potluck.

There are **Salvation Army Angel Tags** on the back window. Please remember not to wrap the gifts, but adding a gift bag or wrapping paper for parents to use is much appreciated. Don't lose any part of the Angel Tag because it is needed for identifying the recipient and the recipient's family. Angel tag gifts should be delivered by **next Sunday, Dec. 10th**. If you are unable to bring them to church that day, please take them directly to the Salvation Army on Monday, Dec. 11th. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie.

You are invited to Trinity UCC on Wednesday, December 13, at 6:00pm for a **candlelight vigil of prayer and remembrance**. Trinity is planning to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy.

*Our **MISSION** is to welcome all to know Christ's salvation through worship and works of love, peace and justice in service for God.*

LOOKING AHEAD*

SUN 12/03 2pm Wadsworth Community Band and Chorus concert
SUN 12/03, 5:30pm Search for the Christ Child (Oak Grove)
TUES 12/05 Deacons Meeting TTBA
WED 12/06, 6pm Soup & Games, 7pm Choir Rehearsal
SUN 12/10, 9:30am Sunday School Hour, 10:45am Worship
TUES 12/12, 7pm Steering Team
WED 12/13, 6pm Potluck, 7pm Christmas Choir rehearsal
SUN 12/17, 9:30am Sunday School Hour, 10:45am Worship
SUN 12/17, 12pm Chili Lunch & Caroling
WED 12/20 6pm Potluck, 7pm Christmas Choir rehearsal
SUN 12/24 Christmas Eve
SUN 12/31 Coffee House
WED 1/3 Soup & Games Night

- 🕯️ SUN 12/03 Norma & Ken anniversary
- 🕯️ FRI 12/8 Emma & Glenn Schroeder anniversary
- 🕯️ SUN 12/10 Mike Hartzler birthday

**Announcements & calendar items for Sunday*

due by Thursday NOON to: chrischamberlin99@yahoo.com

First Mennonite Church

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Worship Service 10:45 am
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Hope

