

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Christmas Eve



## The Federated Church of Paxton

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Pastor Colleen Lawrence, Minister

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Rev. Dr. Robert Ross, Pastor Emeritus

Organist - Priscilla Andreae



# Welcome to our guests!

Please take a minute to sign our guest book located at the back of the sanctuary.

## Christmas Greetings

**Unison Song**     *“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”*

PH, #5

### Prayer (Pastor)

O Thou who art the light of the world, the desire of all nations and the shepherd of our souls, let Thy light shine in the darkness, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of God. By Thy lifting up of Thy cross, draw the peoples unto Thee; let Thy sheep hear thy voice and be brought home to Thy fold; that there may be one flock and one shepherd; one God and one Father of us all, through all, and in all. Amen.

**Choir**           *“Shadows of Christmas”*

### Narrator

For decades, college students have come to our country to study. Many attend Christmas Festivities with their host families or fellow students. The students are honored to be invited, but, come with many questions. They ask that we explain the celebration of that of the birthday of the King.

**Choir**           *“Away in a Manger”*

### Narrator

Some of the Students explained, in their country they have many gods. They fear their gods and must sacrifice to them, or their gods will be angry and punish them. They could not celebrate all of the gods’ births. What makes this One’s birthday so special?

We explain: “Jesus, the Son of God, came into the world to save us.”

**Scripture**       John 3:16-17

### Narrator

God did not send His Son appearing out of the sky with terrifying sound or great splendor. God sent His Son to earth as Baby Jesus. In this year 2011, let us call on Him once again.

**\*Hymn**           *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

PH, #9

## Investment of Time, Talents & Treasures

**Offertory**       *“What is this Wonderful Fragrance?”*

arr. Hopson

**\*Hymn**           *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

PH, #9

## \*Prayer of Dedication

**Scripture**       Luke 1:26-33

**Choir**           *“Mary, Did You Know?”*

\*All who are able, PLEASE STAND

**Responsive Reading** Luke 1:46-50

**ONE:** And Mary said: "My Soul magnifies the Lord".

**ALL: And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

**ONE:** For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden.

**ALL: For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.**

**ONE:** For He who is mighty has done great things for me.

**ALL: And Holy is His name.**

**ONE:** And holy is His name.

**ALL: and His mercy is on those who fear Him.**

**ONE:** From generation to generation.

**Narrator**

Some students explained in their countries women and earthly class folk are looked down upon. Not considered worthy of privilege or honor. They have a hard time understanding that messengers from heaven announced the birth of Baby Jesus not to emperors or mighty ones, but to everyday folk.

**Scripture** Luke 2:8-14

**\*Hymn** "Angels We Have Heard on High"

PH, #23

**Scripture** Luke 2:15

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*"Light the Christmas candles now: Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow;*

*Birthday candles for the King, Let the alleluias ring.*

*Candle, candle, burning bright, Shining in the cold winter night:*

*Candle, candle, burning bright, Fill our hearts with Christmas light."*

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Greeting**

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His People, and hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David."

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**Invitation**

**Communion Prayer**

**Sharing of the Gifts**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\* Candle Lighting Service** "Silent Night"

**\* Prayer**

Ah, dearest Lord Jesus, Holy Child; make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled, within my heart, that it may be a quiet chamber kept for Thee. Amen.

**\*Hymn** "Joy to the World"

PH, #40

**\*Benediction**

Russ Taylor - Guitarist

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today, December 24th**

Christmas Eve & Christmas Service at 11:00 p.m.  
Candlelight & Communion (Elders - Doug & Jim Niewold)

**Sunday, December 25th**

Christmas Service at KT Home, 1:30pm (Elder-Greg Anderson)

**Wednesday, December 28th**

Youth Lock-in

**Friday, December 30th - Saturday, December 31st**

Pastor Colleen out of town

**Sunday, January 1st**

Church Worship at 10:00 a.m.

**Friday, January 6th**

Epiphany Party at Don and Pastor Colleen's - 6pm

**December** Greeters Liturgists Ushers Elders ~ W. Niewold, Taylor, Cole  
**January** Greeters Liturgists Ushers Elders ~ Mike & Alex Goudy Family

**December**

Birthdays  
& Anniversaries

1<sup>st</sup> - Nancy Taylor

15<sup>th</sup> - Storm Smith

22<sup>nd</sup> - Ivan & Priscilla Andreae Ann.

28<sup>th</sup> - Brock Johnson

**Annual Meeting**

The Annual  
Congregational Meeting  
will be held

Sunday, January 15th.

Please make every effort to  
be in attendance.

***Lord, We ask thanksgiving, comfort, healing  
and faith for these friends and family members***

Jeff Legener; Brent Lawrence - recovery; Bill Cofel; John Lateer

***Homebound or in Nursing Homes***

Sue Moore (New Address) 1115 Harbers Lane, Apt 132,

Metamora, Il 61548

Donald Rhodes

Jani Fraim - Room 219, GC Hospital & Health Center

Wanda Larson - La Canada Care Facility, Tucson, AZ

Marcella Woodworth - Prairie Village, Rantoul

**For the month of December, please bring peanut butter, spaghetti &  
spaghetti sauce, canned stews, & cereal for the Food Pantry.**

***As always, all non-perishable food items are welcomed.***