

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, December 1st

First Sunday of Advent

Adult Sunday School, 8:45am

Confirmation, 9:00am

Youth Sunday School, 9:30am

Worship, 10:00am/Elder-Greg Anderson

Bday & Ann. Fellowship after worship

Monday, December 2nd

Church on Ministry in Gilman,

9:30-2pm

Tuesday, December 3rd

Church Office Hours, 3-6:30pm

Bible Study, 6:30pm at Maxine

Anderson's Home-152 N. Vermilion

Wednesday, December 4th

PAMA Meeting, Noon at Monical's

Choir Practice, 7:00pm

Thursday, December 5th

UCC Clergy Mtg, 10-2pm in Savoy

Sunday, December 8th

Second Sunday of Advent

Adult Sunday School, 8:45am

Confirmation, 9:00am

Youth Sunday School, 9:30am

Worship, 10:00am

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st - Nancy Taylor



15th - Storm Smith

22nd - Ivan & Priscilla Andreae

28th - Brock Johnson

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

Marcella Woodworth, Sue Moore, Kitty Anderson, Brent Lawrence, Robin Niewold, Priscilla Andreae, Jeff & Barb Legener

Continued Health of Cancer Treatment Patients

Janet Goudy, Alan Turner, Ivan Andreae

Homebound or in Nursing Homes

Sue Moore, Donald Rhodes, Jani Fraim, Marcella Woodworth

For the month of December, please bring peanut butter, cake mix, sugar & flour for the Food Pantry.

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

Pastor Colleen Lawrence, Minister

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Organist - Priscilla Andreae

December 1st, 2013
First Sunday of Advent

THE
Bright Star
OF BETHLEHEM

The Star of
creation



The Federated Church of Paxton
10:00 a.m. Worship Service



Sharing of Joys, News, Concerns

*BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*Call to Worship

One: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

One: Jesus, Bright Star of Bethlehem, light of creation,

All: Shine now and enlighten the whole world!

One: Jesus, Bright Star of Bethlehem, light of hope,

All: Shine now and heal hopeless hearts!

One: Jesus, Bright Star of Bethlehem, light of unity,

All: Shine now and gather us all as one!

One: Jesus, Bright Star of Bethlehem, light of joy,

All: Shine now and bring your gladness!

One: Shine now, Bright Star of Bethlehem, and bring your light and your life to us!

All: Amen.

*Opening Hymn

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Advent Lord, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
Advent Lord, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best Gift Divine! To the world so freely giv'n,
For that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n.
Advent Lord, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise!

Youth Moment

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

One: Today we light the first candle of our Advent wreath. We begin this season of anticipation and expectation as we remember God's creative power and light. *(The first candle of the wreath is lit.)*

One: At the dawn of creation, God said, "Let there be light!"

All: Advent Lord, shine your light on us! Alleluia!

Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Old Testament Reading..... Psalm 19:1-6

New Testament Reading..... Colossians 1:15-20

Anthem "Light of the World"

Gospel..... John 1:1-14

Drama and Message

Confession and Forgiveness

One: Advent Lord,

All: Forgive us for our sinfulness and the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder of the world you have made. Forgive us for taking without giving and for reaping without sowing. Shine your light upon us, O Lord, and open our eyes to see, our lips to praise and our hands to share. Guide us along the pathways of life on this earth until you bring forth a new heaven and a new earth when your Son comes again in glory. Amen.

One: Hear the Good News: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. He is the Bright Star of Bethlehem. When he was born to save us he shattered the darkness of our sin, bringing forgiveness, love and grace. In him, you are a new creation!

All: Amen. Alleluia!

*Bringing Forth Our Offering

*Communion by Intinction

*Closing Hymn "What Star is This?"

What star is this, which beams so bright,
More lovely than the noonday light?
It shines to herald forth the King,
Glad tidings of our God to bring.

God spoke and said, "Let there be light."
And broke the darkness of the night.
And all creation came to be,
By his own power and majesty.

O Lord, with each returning day
Your guiding light shows us the way.
Through gloom and darkness, you are there,
Your radiance beaming everywhere!

*TAKING OUT THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*Benediction