

December 18th, 2011
Fourth Sunday of Advent
& Children's Program



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.

Unison Song *"Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night"*

PH, #20

Sharing of Joys, News, Concerns

Opening Prayer (*in unison*)

2 Samuel 7, Luke 1:26-38

**Beloved, Holy Lover, we welcome you to our house,
the sacred space we have built to gather together as your people.**

**Here we come to offer you our thanksgiving and praise
in response to the abundance of your creation.**

**Here we come to share with you
our prayers of confession and petition,
for they lie heavy on our hearts.**

**Even knowing that you are here and everywhere,
we come longing to hear you say, "I am with you always." Amen.**

***Prelude** *"In Dulci Jubilo"*

J. S. Bach

Silent Prayer

***BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

*"Light the Advent candle, four: Think of joy forever more
Christ child in a stable born, Gift of love that Christmas morn.
Candle, candle, burning bright, Shining in the cold winter night:
Candle, candle, burning bright, Fill our hearts with Christmas light."*

*** Call to Worship** (*responsively*) *2 Samuel 7, Luke 1:47-55, Luke 1:26-38*

One: Host of Hosts, from sunrise to sunrise,
and generation to generation, we are your people.

All: You have been with us wherever we have gone.

You will be with us wherever we may go.

One: You planted us in a land flowing with milk and honey,
then you planted our salvation in Mary's womb.

All: Jesus, who is the Christ, is planted firmly in each one of us.

One: Our souls magnify the Holy One.

All: Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

*All who are able, PLEASE STAND

Prayer of Confession *(in unison)*

Luke 1:47-55

Compassionate, Forgiving God,
we trespass on your mercy and take your favor for granted.

We think only of ourselves.

We forget the lessons of those who came before us,
and ignore our responsibility to those who will follow us.

We grow proud and seek power.

We do not see the destruction of our actions
and how it distances us from you.

We do not recognize our hunger for what it is, or where it leads us.

We grow faint. Bring us home to you, Merciful Beloved.

Assurance *"Amazing Grace" (Verse 1)*

PH, #280

Investment of Time, Talents & Treasures

Offertory *"Christmas Night"*

Goller

***Hymn** *"We Give Thee but Thine Own" (one verse)*

PH, #428

***Prayer of Dedication**

Romans 16:25-27

God only Wise, accept these offerings,
the fruit of our labor and lives, in obedience of our faith,
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Lectionary Scripture

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27

***Gospel** Luke 1:26-38

Message

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Response *"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"*

Children's Program

Under direction of Jackie Roy

***Closing Hymn** *"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"*

PH, #28

***TAKING OUT THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

***Benediction**

Luke 1:47-55, Romans 16, Luke 1:26-38

Be strengthened according to the proclamation of Jesus Christ.

Go, do all that you have in mind, for the Holy One is with you.

Nothing is impossible with God.

***Postlude** *"Pat-a-Pan"*

arr. Hopson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, December 18th

Youth Christmas Program during morning Worship
Christmas Brunch to follow
January newsletter deadline

Wednesday, December 21st

Confirmation-6pm/Youth Group-7pm/Choir Practice-7pm

Saturday, 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 (Communion Elder-Greg Anderson)

Welcome Baby Carter!

Congratulations to Michelle & Zach and Grandparents Doug and Deana and
Greatgrandparents, Wayne & Janet Niewold
on the arrival of baby Carter, born December 2nd, 2011.

December Greeters Liturgists Ushers Elders ~ W. Niewold, Taylor, Cole



December
Birthdays
& Anniversaries

1st - Nancy Taylor
15th - Storm Smith
22nd - Ivan & Priscilla Andreae Ann.
28th - 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***

The family of Eloise Shear, who passed away earlier this week.

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.**