

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 22, 2019

As the prelude begins, let us observe silence as we prayerfully anticipate this hour of corporate worship of Almighty God.

Prelude: Variations on *Adeste Fidelis* ("O Come, All Ye Faithful")Raynor Taylor

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Hymn 122 ***Angels We Have Heard on High***

*Words of Greeting and Peace

Anthem: *In the Bleak Midwinter*arr. Albin Whitworth

Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:1-5a

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

*We Sing in Adoration: ***The First Noel
Light of the World***

****Doxology***

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Born in Me*JJ Heller

Prayer of Confession

O God, you search us out and know us, and all that we are is open to you.

We confess that we have sinned: **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

When we long for your coming to change the world, and yet are often unwilling for change in our own hearts: **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

When we do not make straight paths for justice, nor offer a welcome when you come as a stranger: **In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

When we dismiss prophets and angels and refuse to nourish your Word in us:

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

When we reduce our preparation for your coming to what others need to change in their lives instead of what we need to change in ours:

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

We turn to you, O God of infinite mercy; **We renounce evil; We claim your love; We choose to be made whole in Christ who comes in flesh to set us free and make us new. Amen.**
— adapted from Nathan Nettleton

Pastoral Prayer / **The Lord's Prayer**

Please feel free to use the altar as your place of prayer as we bow in humility before our loving heavenly Father. If kneeling is difficult for you, please use the red chairs or stand by the altar rail.

Song of Response: ***Noel***

*New Testament Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Song of Preparation ***Who Would Have Dreamed***

Sermon: **Christmas Again?**
Pastor Wes Oden

*Hymn 117 ***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

*Postlude: *Organ Flourish on "Joy to the World"*Michael Dell

*Please stand if able
Organist: Judy Congdon

Scripture Reader: Calvin Schierer
Acolyte: Eben Schilke

Music Ministry Team:

Kristen Sanasith, Mike Cox, vocals; Caleb Hilsher, guitar;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals;
Bekah Brennan, keyboard & vocals; Dan Wartinger, bass

NURSERY: We provide a fully staffed nursery for infants up to two years of age. The Nursery is located on the first floor of the Christian Education Building and is available during services.

There are **KID'S BAGS AND BIBLES** available in the bookshelf on the left side of the foyer next to the Men's restroom.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: During the 10:00 services, we will staff 2 children's church rooms. Room 116 will have the 2-3 year olds and Room 115 will have the preschooler 4-5 year olds.

JUNIOR CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL will begin again on January 12th.

Children's Worship bulletins are available in the church foyer for ages 3-12.

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. We have now arrived at the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the anticipation of Christ's birth is mounting. As Mary and Joseph make final preparations for their child, so we are called to make final preparations, too. In worship today, release your heart and mind to the movement of God's Spirit—to the whisper of His voice, to the miracles of His presence, to the love of His Son.

TUESDAY AT 5:00 PM AND 7:00 PM you are invited to our Christmas Eve Services. In both services, we will read the Scriptures that record our Savior's birth, we will sing carols that proclaim His birth, and we will light candles as a symbol of His birth. The 5:00 service will include a time for children.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we gather for one worship service at 10:00.

COATS & WINTER GEAR NEEDED: Through the end of the year, Jr. Church is once again collecting coats and winter gear to give to Wellspring for local families in need. They've already filled one large box but can always use more. Please drop off your new or gently used winter wear to the box in the foyer of the Christian education building. Thank you!

OUR 2019 CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING will join other donors for classroom completion and solar power at the Wesleyan school in Canaan, Haiti.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY IS NOT MEETING THIS WEEK; we resume gathering on January 2nd at 7:00 pm. Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our life.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED for the holidays on Wednesday, December 25, Thursday, December 26, and Wednesday, January 1.

STEWARDSHIP

Received (June 1—Present): \$420,410.11 / Budgeted (June 1—Present): \$448,558.37
NOTE: 2019 donations need to be delivered to the church by Dec. 31st, mailed with a postmark date of Dec. 31st or earlier, or given online by 2:00 p.m. on Dec. 31st to ensure a transaction date in 2019.

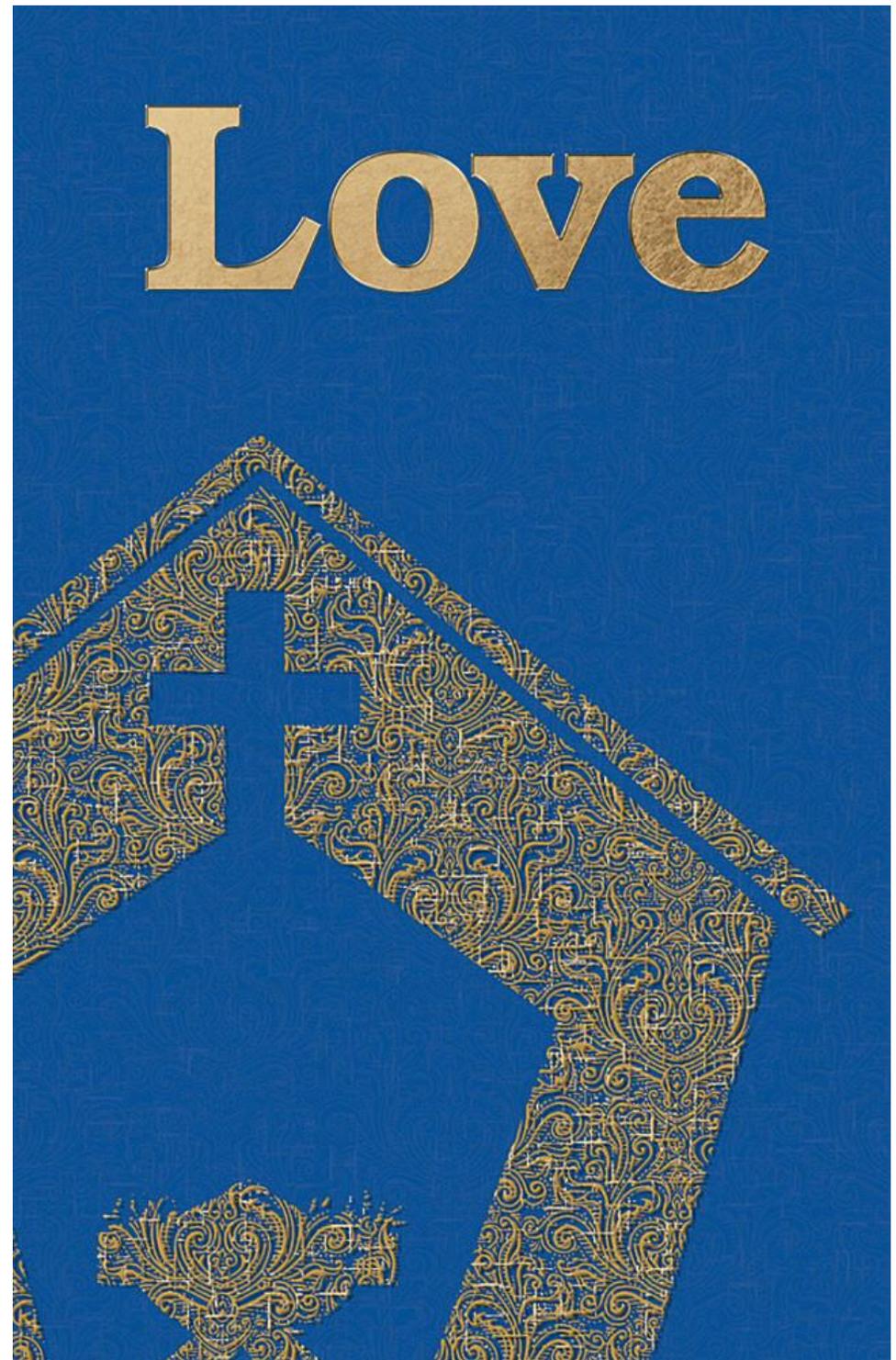
MISSION MOMENT – Martin and Sheri Hegeman (SIM) hope to commence language study in 2020 as they move toward full-time ministry at Sahel Academy in Niger. Two thirds of their funding is still needed, so we pray for God’s full provision as they continue to prepare.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – December 7 near the Somali border a bus was stopped, and people separated by their religious beliefs. 10 Kenyan believers were killed on the spot by Shabaab Muslim extremists. We pray for Christians who face more frequent attacks during the Christmas season. (Open Door)

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24	5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 29	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, January 5	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, January 12	8:20 a.m., 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – Worship Services

PRAYER CONCERNS: for Carlos Gildemeister and his family at the death of his father and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Diane Emmons, Chris Stewart, Karen Szymanski, Phyllis Osgood, Cindy Lastoria, Leonard Watson, Jerry Isaman (Joe Breton’s step-father), Mark Mayhle (Doug’s brother), Paulette Schierer, Ruby Schierer Williams, Elly Plaza (Alejandra Koch’s sister), Jeshu, Kurtis and Elijah Perry, Reuben Samuels, Debbie Alderman Wilson, The Marsh Family, Jon Retz, Emily Hood (A.C. Taylor’s cousin), Bob Brown, Bill Getty, Nancy Cole, Eileen Spear, Evelyn Heil, Dan Gurley, Bethie Liddick, Bev Rhett, Phil Main, Emily Crikelair, Mike Raybuck, Eila Shea, Izabela Daugherty (Dave and Karen’s daughter-in-law), Peter Lingenfelter; for the injured and grieving from tragedies and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the leaders of our government; for Mission of Christ Church, Buffalo (Pastor Yoshua Bashizi).





Poinsettias for Christmas are Given By

- ❖ Willis & Beth Beardsley in loving memory of our parents
- ❖ Jerry Brown and the Oden Family in loving memory of Alyce
- ❖ Judy Hopkins and Family in loving memory of Ted
- ❖ Peter & Nancy Luckey in loving memory of Bob, Ruth & Daniel Luckey
- ❖ Paul & Shirley (Mullen) Mills in loving memory of James H. (Pop) and Lillian Mills; in loving memory of Bonnie Boggs Mills; in loving memory of Stephen Matthew Mills, and in honor of Laurence and Vesta Mullen
- ❖ Robin Pawling in loving memory of Jean Alderman Pawling
- ❖ Niece Robin Pawling in loving memory of Gerry Alderman
- ❖ Calvin & Paulette Schierer in loving memory of Paul & Pat Burke and Richard & Theola Schierer
- ❖ Bill & Jayne Swanson in loving memory of our parents Clyde & Shirley Maugans and Russell & Helen Swanson
- ❖ Ed, Tracy, Grace & Cindy Lu Taylor in loving memory of Edward Taylor, Robert Taylor, Jess Grossman, and Brett Grossman
- ❖ Barb VanWicklin in loving memory of my parents Dorothy and John Johansen
- ❖ Herb & Karen Williams in loving memory of our parents Clifford & Lucile Williams and Bill & Bea Dunning and brother David F. Dunning
- ❖ Matt & Barb Woolsey & Family in loving memory of Warren & Ella Woolsey and Mary Alice Bowman

