

HOPE

# PEACE

All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace.

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 19, 2021

11:00 STREAMING SERVICE

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Prelude: *Carol Preludes by Wilbur Held*  
“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”  
“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Wayne, Monica & Whitley Lewis

Hymn of Praise 116: ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

Celebration of Ministry: Christmas Eve Offering

Words of Greeting and Peace

Anthem: *The Hands that First Held Mary’s Child* (Dan Forrest)  
Debbie Shea, violin

Children’s Sermon

Songs of Adoration:  
***Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground); Hope is Alive***

Time of Prayer

*Please feel free sit, stand, or kneel as we bow in humility before our loving heavenly Father.*

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-17; Matthew 1:18-25  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. ***All: Thanks be to God!***

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

Sermon: **Advent in a Nursery**  
Pastor Wes Oden

Closing Song: ***Welcome to Our World***

Benediction

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Organist: Judy Congdon    Acolyte: Junie Babbitt    Scripture Reader: Pastor Jon Cole

Music Ministry Team:

Joanna Bates, vocals; Dan Wartinger, guitar & vocals;  
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Betsy Webb, keyboard; AC Taylor, cajón

**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.

**CAROL SING:** Today at 4:00pm, join us in the church parking lot for a time of singing your favorite Christmas Carols. We will have hot drinks and after the singing, we will have everything for making S'mores.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** We are offering two Christmas Eve services this year: Outdoors (4:00pm) and Indoors/Streaming (6:00pm). Both services will include reading the scriptures of Christ's birth, singing the carols of Christ's birth and the lighting of candles recognizing Christ's birth. We will have a children's time during both services and live animals at the outdoor service. We will also collect our gifts for the Christmas Eve Offering.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING** – We join World Hope International in providing self-sustaining assistance to the vital LaGonave Wesleyan Hospital in Haiti. Offerings will be collected Christmas Eve in both indoor and outdoor services, and may be received via all HWC donation options throughout December.

**STEWARDSHIP** Budget Needed: \$449,429.12// Budget Received: \$403,968.49

**REMINDER:** *All gifts for calendar year 2021 need to be delivered to the church office by the 31st ; mailed with a postmark date of December 31st or earlier; or need to be made online by December 31st at 2:00 p.m. with a gift date of December 31 or earlier*

**MISSION MOMENT** – We continue to focus on Haiti as we pray with Kris and Cory Thede that God grant wisdom to Global Partners as they consider the possible return of GP workers to Haiti. And we ask God to guide us as we join in significant giving for LaGonave Wesleyan Hospital this Christmas.

**PERSECUTED CHURCH** – Many who are facing long-term displacement by floods, and even starvation in South Sudan are Christian brothers and sisters. May God give provision and protection and guide the global response. May their witness in the midst of suffering lift up the Name of Jesus.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Wendy Ott, Karen Gaerte, Bill Getty, Don Yeddo (Paul Rowley's step-father), Howard Berry (Donnie Stockin's brother), Andy Mikolajczyk (Mary Lingenfelter's brother), Sith Sanasith (Souly's brother), Denise Zambrano, Cameron Green, Vangie Grant, Lenore Paige, Gary Heil (Janet Stegen's brother), Amy Ortiz (Luke Ogden's sister), Sarah Gurley, Grace Taylor, Chelsea Ellis, Keith Rugg (Kathy Moore's father), Mark Mayhle (Doug's brother), Jeshu, Kurtis and Elijah Perry, Reuben Samuels, Emily Hood (A.C. Taylor's cousin), Nancy Cole, Eileen Spear, Dan Gurley, Phil Main, Emily Crikelair, Mike Raybuck, Eila Shea, Izabela Daugherty (Dave and Karen's daughter-in-law), Peter Lingenfelter; for Lynne Perry recovering from a recent house fire and for all dealing with tragedies and disasters; for all effected by the coronavirus, for a safe end for the missionaries kidnapped in Haiti, for refugees, for peace amid threats of war; for all area churches as they proclaim the birth of Jesus.

# STEWARDSHIP *A Life of Generosity*

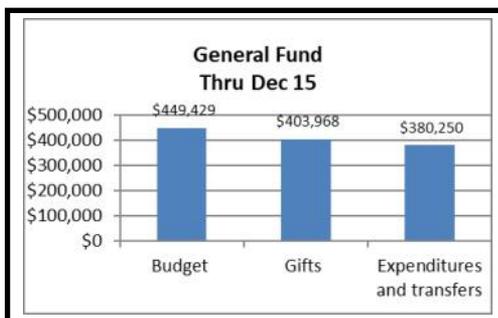
Recently Pastor Jon attended a youth ministry convention at which, the 9 Square-in-the-air company, held a competitive 9 square tournament. On the line for the winner was a complete 9 square game system. That's about a \$1000 worth of youth ministry fun! Without going into too much detail about gameplay mechanics, you should understand that being tall is a significant advantage in 9 Square. Since Pastor Jon is taller than most people, he entered the competition with high hopes of bringing home a brand new 9 square game for our youth ministry, and he was on the way to doing just that.

Then he began to listen to the stories of some of the other youth pastors and their hope of winning a youth ministry tool that for many of them was financially out of reach. He was struck with the knowledge that all of the youth ministry needs in our church are generously met. And so, knowing that many youth leaders have minimal financial resources and with a sense of gratitude for what our church provides, he decided to withdraw from the event.

It's only because of your generosity that we are able to invest as much as we do in the young people in our community! In addition to one-time requests (technology, missions, big events), the youth budget is routinely used for things like:

- Youth group supplies
- Refreshments
- Investments in the youth room
- Curriculum
- Volunteer staff training and “thank-you’s”
- Bibles and other books that we can give out to parents and students
- Defraying the cost of trips and events to keep the price low enough that all students can attend.

This ministry that focuses on the well-being and spiritual development of our young people would not be possible without your generous giving! Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.



## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS ARE GIVEN BY~

- ✧ Ken and Barb Bates in loving memory of David and Vivian Robbins and Jim and Doris Bates
- ✧ Mom, Dad, Ava and Alexa Breuer in loving memory of Erica
- ✧ Jerry Brown and the Oden Family in loving memory of Alyce
- ✧ Bill and Antje Calkins in loving memory of Heinz and Hildegard Janssen and William and Marjorie Calkins
- ✧ Bill and Judy Congdon Doezema in loving honor of our parents William Sr. and Jeanette Doezema and Edwin and Mildred Congdon
- ✧ Judy Hopkins and Family in loving memory of Ted
- ✧ Dean and Carmen Liddick in loving memory of Alton and Ruth Liddick and Gerald and Mildred VanderVeen
- ✧ Paul & Shirley (Mullen) Mills in loving memory of James and Lillian Mae Mills; in loving memory of Bonnie Boggs Mills; in loving memory of Stephen Mills, and in honor of Laurence and Vesta Mullen
- ✧ Robin Pawling in loving memory of my mother Jean Alderman Pawling; in loving memory of my aunt Gerry Alderman; and in loving memory of my aunt Debbie Alderman Wilson
- ✧ The Pocock Family in loving memory of Al and Esther Smith
- ✧ Daryl and Gudy Stevenson in memory of our parents, Milly and Magnus Mindrebo and Margaret and Herbert Stevenson
- ✧ Bill and Jayne Swanson in memory of our parents
- ✧ Grace Taylor in memory of my loving husband Edward and son Robert
- ✧ Tracy Taylor in memory of my loving father Jess and brother Brett
- ✧ Matt and Barb Woolsey in memory of Mary Alice Bowman and Ella and Warren Woolsey.