



December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent
9:15 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program

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"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

Worship Service
December 17, 2023 9:15 a.m.
[congregation reads bold]

GATHERING

Bell

Announcements

Prelude: *Dona Nobis Pacem*
-Junior Gyros

-arr. Karen Lakey Buckwalter

Call to Worship

L: In Advent we look for a sign of God's presence among us,

C: But the only sign God gives us is the sign of Immanuel.

L: The prophet spoke of a young woman who would bear a child by that name.

C: And the angel told Joseph that Mary's child would save the people from their sin.

L: We thank you, God, for the sign of Immanuel. Lead us to its resting place that we, too, might find God with us.

(from Litanies and Other Prayers for the Revised common Lectionary Yr C. Phyllis Cole & Everett Tilson, Abingdon Press 1994. pg 23.)

Gathering Song: *People Look East*

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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Advent Wreath

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

Amen.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

Christmas Program – The Christmas Checklist

Hymn – *O Come All Ye Faithful* (Congregation sings)

Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the king of angels:
Oh come let us adore him,
Oh, come let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Scene I: Adult Angels

Reader: Luke 2:1-5

Scene II: Mary & Joseph

Reader: Luke 2:6-7

Away in a Manger (Children sing)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Scene III: Innkeeper, Joseph and Mary

Hymn – *Silent Night* (Congregation sings)

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Scene IV: Children Angels

Go Tell It On The Mountain (Children sing)

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born!
While Shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light.

Hymn – *The First Noel* (Congregation sings)

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Reader: Luke 2:8-14

Scene V: Shepherd's / Sheep

Hymn – *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Congregation sings)

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Reader: Luke 2:15-16

Scene VI: Wisemen

Reader: Matthew 2:9-11

Hymn - Joy to the World! (Congregation sings)

Celebrating the birth of Jesus, our savior, is at the top of our checklist this Christmas. Emmanuel, God is with us. Let's share the good news with the world.

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing.

Prayers of Intercession

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need. Empower us as helpers and advocates for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. We pray for those who are ill, *especially Helen, Susan, Gladys, Kim, Dean, Lester, Nat, Lori, Lisa, Kim, Bethany, Jon, Barry, Rumpun, Ted, Donna, Nancy, Kathy, Jim, Carolyn, Robin, Carol, Glenn, Karen, Hope Marie Grace, Jenan, Roger, Jennifer Adam, Shirley, Elsie, Kris.* Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For those celebrating birthdays this week. May they continue to grow in faith as they grow in years, *Brena, Arlene, Anna, Julie*. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For those celebrating anniversaries this week. May they be bound together by your love, now and forever, *Carol & Michael, Andrew & Emily, Gilbert & Grace, Herbert & Dorla*. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ in neighboring congregations. May your light shine brightly for all, sharing in your love and your peace that surpasses all understanding. We pray especially for St. John, Bath, and their pastor, Terrence Walsh. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Offering

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first line of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right".

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your".

pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third line of musical notation concludes the offering prayer. The lyrics are: "pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -".

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory: *We Are Waiting*
-Jordan Chorale

-John Helgen, arr. Priscilla Lamparter

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God our provider,

by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as our Lord taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

L: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

C: for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

**All: for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name. Amen. (Luke 1:47-49)**

Sending Song: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* p. 11

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

-Swedish folk tune, arr. Paul Manz

Cast of Characters

Readers

Darlene Wenhold
Julie Boscia
Shirley Schleicher

Angels – Adults

Marlene Peters
Amber Kerschner
Mia Kerschner
Jordan Kerschner
Payton Shafer
Gracie Martz-Shelton

Angels – Children

Sadie Belnoski
Callie Boscia
Madison Dreisbach
Alivia Gill
Ellison Gill
Eleanor Gross
Alex Heckman
Arianna Lakatosh
Eva Scheffler
Nora Scheffler
Sawyer Martz-Shelton

Sheep

Devin Dreisbach
Andrew Heckman
Nathan Heckman

Mary

Eleanora Heckman

Joseph

Landon Epting

Innkeeper

Dean Wagaman

Wisemen

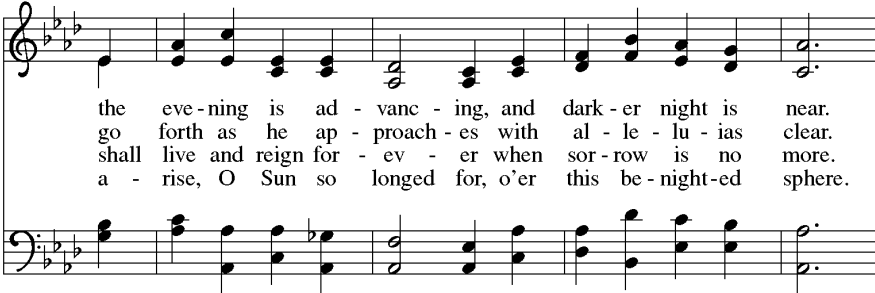
Chris Boscia
Braydon Epting
Ken Gross

Light snacks will be served after the program in the Memory Room. All are welcome!

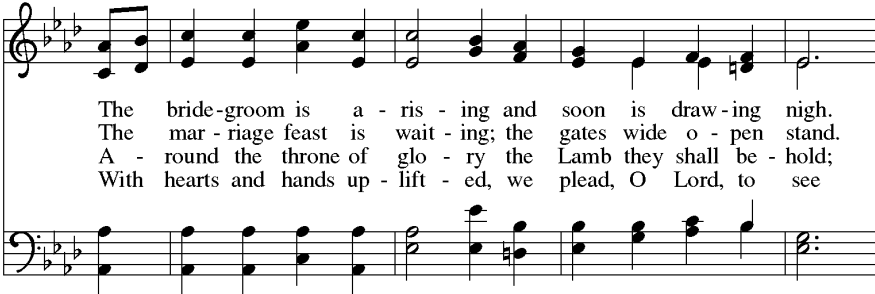
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

The Lord's Table at Jordan Church is an open table. If you are a baptized Christian of any church, believe in the Lord's presence in the sacrament and have received the sacrament before, you are welcome to receive with us. If you are not able to receive, please come forward for a pastoral blessing. To come forward, simply follow the direction of the ushers. **Distribution method** is noted in the order for worship.

ALTAR RAIL DISTRIBUTION: As you come forward, please take an empty cup with you to the altar rail. If you choose not to consume wine, grape juice is available. Come to the altar rail without a glass and a communion assistant will offer you the grape juice in a pre-filled glass.

INTINCTION DISTRIBUTION: Come forward and receive a wafer. Then dip it into either the wine (the cup in the center of the bread plate) or the grape juice (in the separate cup held by the second assistant). If you want additional time at the altar, please step to center of the altar rail out of the flow of other worshippers. You are invited to kneel if you wish. **Gluten-free wafers** are available – please indicate your need to the communion assistant.

You are asked to fill out **communion cards** clearly and completely, one card per person. Visitors are asked to fill out the address of their home church (if you identify with one) so we may forward the card there. Take a moment also before leaving to sign our guest book, located in the entrance area.

If it is necessary to **leave the sanctuary** during worship, please refrain, if possible, from doing so during the reading of scripture or the Eucharistic prayers so as not to distract other worshippers.

The use of **electronic devices** during worship is discouraged. Please turn off cell phones or place on vibrate before the start of the service.

Hearing assistance is available for members and visitors to Jordan. Please see an usher to arrange to use a receiver. A Koala Bear **baby changing station** is located in the handicapped restroom across from the church offices (in the new section). Children's welcome bags and bulletins are located in the narthex. Please ask ushers for help.

Restrooms are located through the left side doors of the chancel; then left through the french doors; restrooms located in the foyer on the right.

Children in grade 9 and younger are asked to remain in the Memory Room when consuming refreshments during the fellowship hours.

Please be sensitive to the fact that many people are allergic to or bothered by **strong scents** (perfume, aftershave, etc.), particularly when many people are gathered closely together, as for **worship services**.

For Parents of young children: We are grateful that God has blessed Jordan with so many young children. Worshiping with young children is a special privilege and joy for all of us. We enjoy the sounds of children in our worship. However, if you sense the need for a "calming break" feel free to take him/her to the Memory Room or Nursery (located through the doors on the left side of the altar) where you can continue to hear and be involved in the worship.

If you are interested in **becoming a member of Jordan**, please speak with the pastor following the service or call the church office (610-395-5912).

Announcements for the Sunday bulletin are due in the church office before 10:00 a.m. on Thursday. Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 15th of the month.

JELC NEWS for the Week of Dec. 17 - 23

THIS WEEK (Dec. 17 – 23)

TODAY (17)

-4:00pm, Blue Christmas Service
-6:30pm, AA Meeting, Social Hall

MON (18) 9-10 AM PANTRY

-6:30pm, Jordaniers Bowlers
-7:00PM, Boy Scouts

TUES (19)

-1:30pm, Game Day, Room M6/8
-6:30pm, Endowment Investment (zoom)
-7:30pm, Volleyball, Family Ctr.

WED (20)

-6:15pm, Friendship Ringers
-6:30pm, Canon Choir
-7:00pm, Badminton, Family Ctr.

THU (21)

-7:00pm, Volleyball, Family Ctr.

FRI (22)

-5:00pm, Junior Gyros
-4:00pm, Youth Badminton, Family Ctr.
-9:30pm, Volleyball, Family Ctr.

Dec. 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Worship with communion

Dec. 24 – The Nativity of Our Lord

4:00 p.m. Candlelight Family Worship with communion

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Traditional Worship with communion

Dec. 31 – First Sunday after Christmas

9:15 a.m. Service of Lessons & Carols

Attendance

12/10/23

9:15 – 68

Sponsors

No sponsors today

Prepare
the way
of the
LORD.

Say a Prayer ☞ Send a Card ☞ Pay a Visit

Fellowship Community: Lillian Semmel, Donald Laudenslager

Lehigh Commons: Janet Stettler

Parkland Manor: Paulette Bassler, Shirley Wertman

Heather Glen: Sonny Laudenslager, Herb & Anna Bieber

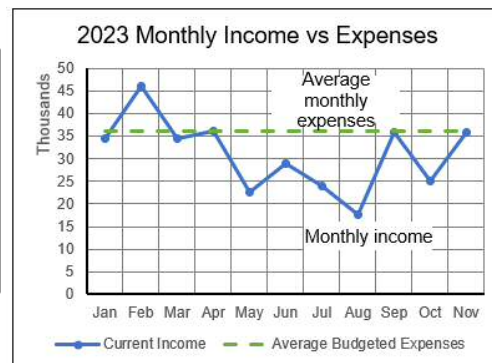
Home: Margaret Smith, Reed Klotz, Dale Gogel, Richard Seltzer

Please keep these people in your prayers: Helen Shollenberger, Susan Mancino, Gladys Harkins, Kim Demarest, Dean Shollenberger, Lester Knipe, Nat Hager, Lori Kocher, Lisa Williams, Kim Friend, Bethany Friend, Jon Conrad, Barry Dorney, Rumpun Heller, Ted DuBois, Donna Stark, Nancy Troutman, Kathy Attieh, Jim Siegfried, Carolyn Flemish, Robin, Carol Kuhns, Glenn Hahn, Karen Hahn, Hope Marie Grace & family, Jenan, Roger Shambough, Jennifer Adam, Shirley Schleicher, Elsie Wascavage, Kris

Birthdays this week: Brena Mark, Arlene Trumbauer, Anna Toth, Julie Boscia

Anniversaries this week: Michael & Carol Martin (59), Andrew & Emily Gross (9), Gilbert & Grace Keller (55), Herbert & Dorla Hullinger (70)

Average weekly expenses: \$8,331	
Current annual surplus/(deficit): \$54,073	
Weekly collections	
Nov 19-25	\$7,462
Nov 26-Dec 2	\$5,051
Dec 3-9	\$8,018
Dec 10-16	\$4,907



New Member Classes

will be held each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Pastor's office, beginning January 7th - January 21st. Anyone interested in becoming a new member or renewing membership should contact the church office, prior to January 7th.

SPONSORSHIPS

Altar Flowers: Dec. 31; Jan. 7, 14, 28; Feb. 4, 18, 25; Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Altar flowers may be sponsored for \$40/2 vase, or *\$20/1 vase*; Bulletins for \$20.

HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPONSORSHIPS: Contact Donna Hahn at 610-295-9148 or dhahn16@gmail.com with your choice of dates(s) and sponsorships(s). Please indicate when reserving your date whether you wish to pick up the flowers after the last service or want them taken to shut-ins. If no preference is given, flowers will be taken to shut-ins.

Checks may be made payable to JELC and either mailed or dropped in the offering plate.

SPONSORSHIP POLICY: Flowers and other sponsorships may be reserved no earlier than one year from the chosen date. If you wish to reserve the same weekend for the following year, you may do so the day after the current year's sponsorship. No dates will be held; the first request for a date (within the one year limit) will be taken regardless of the previous year's sponsor.

Worship Assistants

DATE	12/17	12/24	12/31	1/7
Altar Guild	9:15-K Leonard	9:15-S Wagaman 4:00-C Rabenold 7:00-L Stettler	9:15-K Leonard	
Lector	9:15-SS Program	9:15-C Flemish 4:00- X 7:00-C Nagle	9:15-K Boardman, C Flemish, D Mancke	
Acolyte	9:15-D Dreisbach	9:15-N Heckman 4:00-N Heckman 7:00-O Wozniak	9:15-O Wozniak	
Ushers	9:15-Stettler family	9:15-Stettler family 4:00- 7:00- Stettler family	9:15-Stettler family	
Bell Toller	9:15-S Hamil	9:15-B Stettler 4:00-D Stark 7:00-B Stettler	9:15-B Lutterschmidt	
Video	9:15-D Dreisbach	7:00-D Dreisbach	9:15-	
SAT	9:15-B Lutterschmidt 4:00-J Siegfried	9:15-D Heckman 4:00-I Martz 7:00-I Martz	9:15-K Boardman	

Please look at the dates we have no one scheduled and give a call to the name listed below for the area(s) you can help with!

Altar Guild/Lynn Daniels ljd2137@aol.com // **Lectors**/Julie Boscia Julie.boscia@gmail.com // **Acolytes**/Stephany Heckman sgarboglio@yahoo.com // **Ushers** /John Weremedic miner70@ptd.net // **Bell Toller**/Sandie Hamil hamilsre@gmail.com // **SAT**/Doug Clark d.clark854@gmail.com // **Video**/Tom Daniels tkdaniels@ptd.net

SOS

A heartfelt thank you to so many Jordan members who generously donated postage stamps and Christmas cards to Shout-Out to Shut-Ins (SOS) as well as those who participated in the card shower. We now have an abundance of cards and stamps to get us through 2024! If you missed the December 10th Christmas card shower deadline you may contact Monica in the church office to obtain free cards, stamps and shut-in/homebound contact information. Thank you for participating in this Shout-Out project!

Coming Soon – our annual Sweet Dreams collection drive for the 6th St. Shelter

Please consider taking advantage of January Sales to purchase **new** twin sheet sets, **new** twin mattress pads, and/or **new** pillows for the needs of the shelter families. Donations may be placed in the “Sweet Dreams” box in the Memory Room through the month of January, 2024. Thanking you in advance for your generosity and support of the 6th St. Shelter.

The Annual Cemetery Lot Holders Meeting

will be held Jan. 21, 2024 after the 10:30 Service in Room #8.

Cemetery Grave Prices

are due to increase January 1, 2024. If you would like to purchase one or more graves, please contact Bruce Stettler at 610-730-8228 or brulou9@gmail.com.

Blue Christmas Worship Service—TODAY at 4:00 p.m.

If you have recently undergone a difficult loss, transition, or life change, the church cares about you and invites you to a special time of music and worship, a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the “blue” feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God. All are invited to a light meal and quiet fellowship in the Memory Room following the service. *We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone.*

2024 Offering Envelopes

Please stop by the Memory Room to pick up your/your family’s boxed offering envelopes at your earliest convenience. We also welcome help from those who are able to deliver additional boxes to friends or shut ins.

Thank You!

The Sunday School Dept. would like to thank Bruce Stettler and Kevin Murphy for the addition of the bulletin boards in the Sunday School foyer.