

WAYS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Call the church office at 715-392-4751.



Follow us on Facebook.

HELPFUL TO KNOW

If you'd like to join us for Sunday worship service live, please go to our Facebook page or YouTube and connect with the following link:

<http://upc-superior.com/youtube>

Please feel free to place any questions you may have by replying in the comments section (YouTube), or contact the church office by phone or email and request to be added to our email list.

PRAYER REQUEST

The Pastor is always glad to share prayer requests during the Prayer Time during each worship service. You can share a prayer request online in the comments section (YouTube) and by contacting the church by email or phone.

The Prayer Chain may be activated by calling

Jan Heckman at 715-392-1072 (jan_KB9LTA@yahoo.com) or

Dean Hecht at 715-398-6532.

Choirmaster & Handbell Director

Church Secretary

Custodian

Interim Director of Children,

Youth & Family Ministries

Interim Nursery Coordinator

Financial Secretary

Organist & Pianist

Pastor

Treasurer

Jane Wester

Tiffany Willie

Beth Lisak

Laura Foote

JoAnn Rush

Jan Letsos

Alexander Sandor

Rev. Brett M. Foote

Christy Willmore



**UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN
—CHURCH—**

*A congregation of the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)*

**229 North 28th Street East
Superior, WI 54880**

Office: 715-392-4751

Pastor: 717-247-4433

unitedpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/UnitedPresbyterianChurch

Online Worship

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12th, 2021

10:00 A.M.

If you are at home, please light a candle to remind yourself of the presence of God.

* Please rise in body or spirit

PRELUDE Alex Sandor
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***INTROIT** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates #93

* **Call to Worship**

One: A voice calls out in the wilderness.

All: It sings of a home for all. It speaks of justice and peace.

One: We could choose to ignore it.

All: We could drown out that song. We could choose not to listen.

One: Instead, we come into this space.

All: We let the world grow quiet. We listen.

One: A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?

All: We hear it. In listening, we worship.

One: Let us draw near to God.

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE—Wittrock Family**

***Candles of Advent—Choir sing, congregation come in on refrain**

Advent candles warm and bright,

fill the world with radiant light

Help us find the Promised One;

guide us to the child who will come

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray.

All: Expansive God,

We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope in the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Family of faith, God sent prophets like John the Baptist to us because this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up—when we lose our way or forget our call—we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does. Rest in the truth that because of Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection...

All: We are all forgiven. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

You are invited to bless those around you with the words, **"The peace of Christ be with you."** (You may pass the peace in the comments section if online. Say hello to one another. In person we encourage elbow bumps and peace signs between folks.)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Laura Foote

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Reading

Tara Wittrock
Zephaniah 3:14-20

SERMON "Home Improvement: Vipers, Joy, and Straight Paths"

Rev. Brett M Foote
Luke 3:1-18

New Testament Reading

***HYMN** Angels We have Heard on High #113

OFFERING

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP & MISSION

OFFERATORY

***RESPONSE**

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;

In the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God; do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Alex Sandor
#654

***PRAYER OVER OFFERING**

One: Let us bless these gifts.

All: God of fixer uppers, and the renovations that take place in our lives and in our churches, we offer all our gifts to you, our lives, our passions and so much more. Bless these tithes and offerings. Bless our mission and vision as the church, as we love alongside our neighbors for the betterment of our community. May we be good stewards of these gifts and may we be generous neighbors this Advent season. In each and every gift we give, whether it be time, talents, or treasures, may we reflect Christ to others. Help us to connect with and care for our community so that Superior, Duluth, and the surrounding areas may know God's love. In the name of the Holy Trinity, Amen.

TIME FOR PRAYER

Prayers to be Shared Please email the church with your prayer requests or share them in the comments section. (YouTube)

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** Walk in the Light— *Choir sing, congregation come in on refrain*

Walk in the light, walk in the light,

with our faith to carry us on

Walk in the light, walk in the light,

it will lead us to God's Son.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Alex Sandor

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 3:1-18

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,
‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN DONATE ONLINE?

At United Presbyterian Church, we offer many opportunities to give of yourself to glorify God. If you'd like to donate online to the church, you can do so at the following link:

<https://www.upc-superior.com/donate>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CURRENT COVID PROCEDURES

Session unanimously voted to encourage masking for all people due to the rise of variants in neighboring counties. We will continue to sing in worship, but we encourage the use of masks during all parts of the service, for all people, vaccinated or unvaccinated. Session is hoping that, with the proper precautions, we can continue to worship safely in person.

ICU NEEDS

We are currently asking for donations of **hand warmers, mittens, hats, wool socks, and scarves** for the Inclusive Care Unit. Please bring in new items or very gently used ones. Items that are worn out will not be considered. Please bring in donations during office hours. Thank you!

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball will be played every Sunday between 6pm -7:30pm in the UPC gym. The church suggests you wear a mask, especially if you have not been vaccinated. Come join the fun and bring another player along.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is meeting at 8:45 AM for breakfast and Christmas pageant practice. As a reminder, the Christmas pageant is next Sunday, December 19th! We look forward to seeing all the hard work the kids have put into this.

CHANCEL CHOIR AND BELL REHEARSALS

Chancel Choir rehearsals will take place Sundays at 8:45 AM, and Bell Choir will rehearse at 11:30 AM.

NOTICE FROM PHYLLIS FLAHERTY

Tom & I will be making Belgian Cookies to sell again this year starting Nov 21. They will still be \$5.00 for two dozen, and the money generated will be given to the UPC Women's group.

I will bring a basket of packaged cookies each Sunday starting Nov. 21 through Dec.19th. If you wish to pre-order my phone # is 715-398-6021. E-mail: pflaherty12@charter.net and I am also on Facebook.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Blue Christmas service will be today at 3 PM. This service is open for everyone, and will be a time of reflection, and lament for any hearts that are hurting or grieving this holiday season.

FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH NEWS

The Fellowship and Outreach committee will be having a Christmas cookie sale at church before and after worship on December 12th and the 19th. The cost will be \$5.00 per plate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DONATE TO THE UPC COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT BY DEC 15!

The UPC Community Garden Project's fundraising campaign through Seed-Money is in its final stretch. The campaign will end on December 15 at 11 am. At its conclusion, SeedMoney will award 270 grants ranging from \$100 to \$1000. If our project raises enough money compared to the other participating projects, we will be awarded one of these grants. We will use the funds we raise, plus any grant money received, for seeds, plants, dirt, fertilizer, tools, and the like. So please go to <https://donate.seedmoney.org/6671/united-presbyterian-church-community-garden> and donate to our project NOW! If you need assistance to give online, Deborah Schlacks will be available after the church service today to help. Questions? Contact Deborah at 218-348-6032 or at desertswan@aol.com. Thanks so much to those who have donated already and to those who will do so in the coming days! Your help is greatly appreciated.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SNOW SHOVELING BRIGADE

Are you looking for a way to serve the congregation and our community? The Snow Shoveling Brigade needs your help to keep the pathways from the parking lot to the three main entry doors at United Presbyterian Church clear of snow this winter. We are looking for volunteers to sign up for a time once a week to clear snow if it falls and accumulates by that time. The times are 8 am and 11 am each day. If there is no snow, the volunteer does not need to come to shovel. We hope to get 14 volunteers to clear the snow as needed at those times. If 14 people volunteer, each person would be responsible to clear snow only once a week. If someone would like to sign up for multiple times, that is fine as well. But many hands make light work.

There will be a signup sheet in the back of the Narthex after church for you to pick the time you can shovel, or you can call Eric Schlacks at 218-269-6678 to sign up.

WELCOME NEW NURSERY WORKERS

Welcome to our new Interim Nursery Coordinator, JoAnn Rush, and temporary Nursery Assistant, Alicia Willoughby.

United Presbyterian Church Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY 12/12

- 8:45 AM CYF Breakfast & Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 9:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM Morning Worship
- 11:45 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 3 PM Blue Christmas Service
- 4 PM Hotdish Initiative
- 6 PM Volleyball

MONDAY 12/13

- 3:45-8 PM Piano Lessons
- 6 PM Cub Scouts
- 7 PM Cub Scouts Committee Meeting

TUESDAY 12/14

- 4-8 PM Piano Lessons
- 4:15 PM Mission Committee

WEDNESDAY 12/15

- 12 PM Staff Meeting (Zoom)
- 1 PM Caregiver Conversations
- 3-7 PM Piano Lessons
- 6:15 PM Finance Meeting
- 4-6 PM CSA Pickup

THURSDAY 12/16

- 6:15 PM Session Meeting (Zoom)
- 7 PM AA Meetings

FRIDAY 12/17

SATURDAY 12/18

<u>Birthdays This Week</u>	
12/13	Bonnie Gronquist
12/15	Duane Aslyn
12/16	Warren Nelson
12/16	Sue Olson
12/17	Heidi Carswell
12/18	Alice Matthias

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

LOOKING AHEAD

- December 19 Community Dinner
- December 19 Christmas Pageant

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!



The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.



The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.


WAYS TO GIVE



Through your congregation



Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy

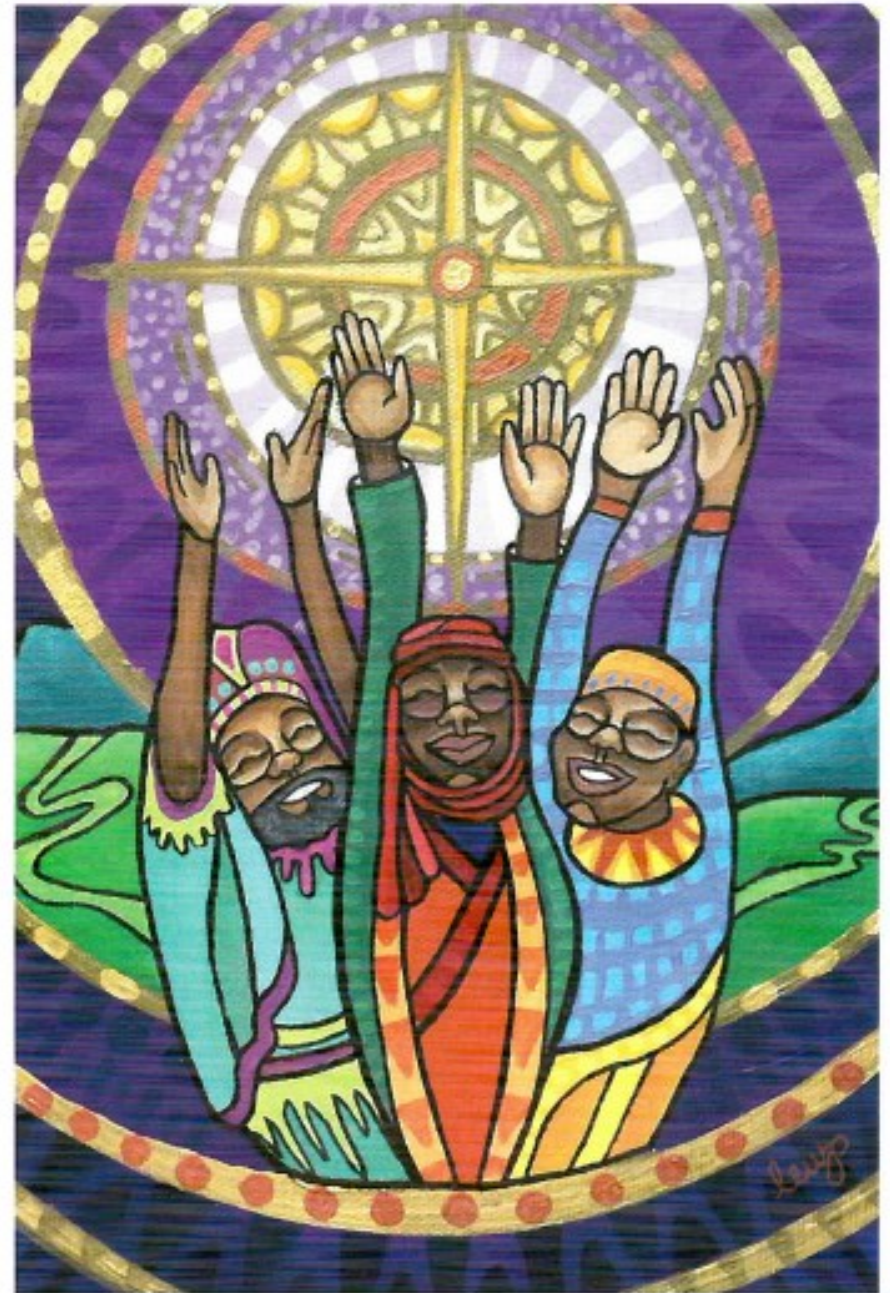


Text **CHRISTMASJOY** to 91999 to give or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Cover: Shining Hope by Lauren Wright Ploman. Art: Sanctified Art LLC. sanctifiedart.org

12/26-21-2026



When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future.

50%

of your gifts assists current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.



Rev. Meg Shoeman's career has been a long journey. Receiving her M.Div. in 2007 but not seeking ordination because of the ban on gays and lesbians, she worked at an animal shelter until being ordained in 2018 to the Children's Hospital of Alabama. A year later, she left this call and worked on a PRN basis as a chaplain at Hershey Medical Center, part-time at a coffee shop and also in a temporary pastoral position at the Market Square Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania. When COVID shut the coffee shop down she lost critical income. Thankfully, an Emergency Assistance Grant from the Board of Pensions brought her both stability and peace of mind in a difficult time.

"I am grateful for the generosity of Presbyterians, whose Christmas Joy offerings make it possible to provide support and sustenance to those like Meg, whom God has called. Such gifts bring essential peace of mind and demonstrate our gratitude for God's gift, in the Christ child."

— Rev. Cheryl Galen, (Interim) Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of Carlisle

50%

of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Because of the ongoing violence against young girls that terrorized their community, Sarah Valentina Hernandez Solache's parents decided to send her, like her older sister before her, to pursue a safer life and a good education at the Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas. Thanks to scholarships funded in part by the Christmas Joy Offering, the experience was transformative. Both are graduates with Sarah now a pre-med student and her sister a Houston-based architect. "Coming to Pan Am and to this Christian community is where I actually found myself and my faith, and where I knew that I loved God," Sarah said. "I found my blessing here."

"Through the sharing of the Christmas Joy Offering — and prayers — every student receives the gift of reaching his or her full potential. This important source of funding makes a difference in the lives of the students entrusted not only to Pan Am but also to the other Presbyterian-related racial and ethnic schools and colleges."

— Dr. Gordon A. Govens, President and Head of School, Presbyterian Pan American School



PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY...
FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!