

EMMANUEL (BAUST)
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Service of Word

December 15, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

Interim Pastor: Rev. Herb Ruby

L = Leader P = People

**For those who are able, please stand.*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Liturgist

***Call to Worship**

L: Divine Delight, in You we are gifted the wonder of joy.

P: We praise You for joy's abundance all over creation.

L: It is there in a baby elephant playing in ocean waves, a family pet's greeting upon their return home, a bear relaxing in someone's backyard hammock.

P: And joy time travels, too. It is present in fond memories and excitement for future possibilities.

Congregation Sings: We Are A People of Joy

We are a people of joy;

we are a people of joy.

Lighting a candle, we watch for the dawn;

we are a people of joy.

L: Yet, in times when we find ourselves feeling far from joy, how might this Advent wreath accompany us in such moments?

P: Perhaps it is in the simple act of lighting a candle together as a community, around the possibility of joy.

L: Perhaps it is in kindling it through noticing even the slightest warmth touch

our heart when we witness joy in others. So, let us gather around and light this candle with God's cosmic light,

P: a light that bends and moves and fills beyond the joy we thought was full. Amen.

Hymn In the Bleak Midwinter Green No. 196

***Prayer for Our Humanity**

L: Joy has so much to teach us, and so does its opposite too.

P: Thoughts and actions of resentment tell us something about our longings and needs that have gone unmet.

L: Possibly, that our ego is running the show, with entitlement, power, or privilege that takes others, and ourselves, down. As Proverbs says, "a joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."

P: O God of Abundant Joy, help us to listen deeply to what is wrestling within us, that we may tend to our desires and celebrate those of others. Let us make way for joy! Amen.

***Words of Assurance** Liturgist

***Song of Praise** Emmanuel, Emmanuel Green No. 178
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Anthem

Scripture Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7 Liturgist

Sermon Hymn On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry Green No. 156

***Gospel** Luke 2: 8-15 Rev. Herb Ruby

Sermon Jesus Brings Joy Rev. Herb Ruby

***Affirmation of Faith**

P: We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Herb Ruby

Our Lord's Prayer (using debts)

Offertory

***Doxology** Doxology (with A-men)

Red No. 356

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

L: Please join me in the prayer of dedication.

P: The prophet Isaiah says that God increases joy. So, may You grow this diversity of gifts offered up to You, O God of Abundance, that they might bring an ecosystem of giving and receiving alike. May they be dedicated to this love that satisfies, that brings us back to You and to ourselves. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** Soon and Very Soon

Green No. 523

***Benediction**

Rev. Herb Ruby

Postlude

Week of December 15, 2024

**“Whoever you are and wherever you
are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here!”**

We extend a warm welcome to each one in worship, whether a member, friend or guest with us today. If you are not currently on our church mailing list to receive the church newsletter and would like to be included, please let us know. Our church website is: ebucc.com. If you use email and would like to receive updated prayer concerns, Church information and announcements please send an email to: office@ebucc.com noting that we may include you in our electronic mailings which include our church newsletter.

EBUCC Offerings: Baust members, friends, and visitors may put regular offerings and special donations in the offering plates placed just inside the front and rear entrances to the sanctuary. During the offertory, these plates will be brought to the altar by our ushers.

Help Needed! Are you able to volunteer to be part of the audio-visual "Zoom" transmitting of our worship services? We're down to just three rotating volunteers now, and the burden would be more manageable if we had a few more folks in the rotation. The commitment would be for running the transmission and recording set-up in the Good Shepherd Room for about fifteen minutes before our worship services, monitoring the transmission during worship and closing it down when the service concludes. Our current "Techs, " Beth Raver, Ben Brandenburg and Kent Kallay, would train and help new volunteers. And we would all be grateful for your willingness to help. Please let Kent, Beth or Ben know if you'd consider joining the crew!

Altar Flowers: Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Jane Rodkey, wishing Michael Rodkey a Happy Birthday on December 18th.

Choir Rehearsal: Choir will rehearse each Sunday in the sanctuary immediately following church. Also, the choir will warm up each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the choir room.

Bible Study: Bible Studies will be on Thursday evenings at 6:00 in the parsonage. We will be continuing the study based on Rev. Herb Ruby's book, *Memorizing Scripture, Why Bother?* The tentative schedule for December is as follows in Part Three: December 19 – W,X,Y,Z; No session on December 12 or 26. All ages and all levels of understanding are welcome. Contact Betty Stonesifer if there are questions.

Baust Food Pantry: Our food pantry at Baust will be closing at the end of December. If items are needed before the end of December, the pantry will be open from 8:30-11:00 on Sunday mornings; or, call 410-751-1999 to set up another time that is more convenient. If you have need of pantry items after December, they will be available at Trinity Lutheran Church in Taneytown as part of Carroll County Food Sunday. Baust regularly supports this pantry as part of our local mission efforts through Taneytown Caring and Sharing. Distribution from this location is on Thursday mornings.

Carroll Food Sunday: Baust Church has been asked to donate canned fruit for the months December. Donations can be brought to the Good Shepherd Room or the porch in the parsonage. Donations can also be brought to Trinity Lutheran on Tuesday or Thursday mornings or left in the cabinet under the portico throughout the week.

Consistory Meeting: Consistory will meet on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the parsonage.

Baust Literary (January): The literary Group book for January is "*A Woman of No Importance*" by Sonia Purnell. The true story of Virginia Hull, who left her Baltimore home to work for the British Special Ops. when Hitler was building toward the peak of his power in Europe. She was assigned to France where she helped the Resistance movement escaped prisoners to war movement. By 1941 she was considered so dangerous to the Gestapo that she had to escape to the Pyrenees mountains. She helped capture 500 German soldiers and kill more than 150. She sabotaged Nazi intelligence and transportation. Her story was ignored for more than 50 years. She was a true patriot. Next meeting will be January 28, 2025 at 6:00pm in the Parsonage.

Christmas Fund: For over one hundred years, **The Christmas Fund** has provided direct financial assistance to the healers in all our lives: retired and active UCC ministers, church workers, and their families. You are part of the community of **The Christmas Fund**, whether you donate at Christmastime, benefit directly from our grant or leadership programs, or simply believe in our mission to help secure the financial foundation of those engaged in the life of the church. Please consider donating to ensure more healers receive the loving support of the Church in their moment of deepest need. Your gift is more than just a testament to your belief in the values of the United Church of Christ, it is a critical lifeline for those who depend on our grant programs for care and support.

Newsletter Articles: Newsletter Articles for January 2025 are due to Jane Rodkey by December 22nd.

Prayer List: Please take a moment to review the prayer lists for our members and friends in the bulletin. If there are names to be added or taken off, please contact the church office or Jane Rodkey.

First Sunday of the Month Luncheon:

Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025

Time: Noon

Place: The Farmhouse Restaurant at the Barn

Address: 75 Cunningham Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325

Website: thebanpa.com

The Farmhouse Phone: 4717-334-8000

*Please note that the restaurant wants a final number one week in advance. RSVP no later than noon Sunday, December 29 to Kathy Cromwell at 443-331-3160 (H) or 410-456-7672 (C)

or KathleenCromwell@comcast.net mailto:KathleenCromwell@comcast.net

*Please note that for groups of more than ten, only one check will be accepted. They automatically add a 20% tip to the total bill.

December 22nd Speaker: Rev. Andy Hood

December 22nd Scriptures: Micah 5:2-5
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45; Luke 1:46-55

December 22nd Liturgist: Kathy Cromwell

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Church Members

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Nancy Edwards | Joan Wantz |
| Duane Rodkey | Linda Goodwin |
| Linda Dennis | Bick and Lois Bickerton |
| Betty Gross | Bob Harrison |
| Skeeter Dull | Brent Grove |
| Calvin Bloom | Bob Miller |
| Dan & Betty Heltibridle | |

Friends

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Eric Helm | Mimi DeLore |
| Libby Fuss | Chic and Sandy Warehime |
| Allen Robertson | Janie Dell |
| Lainey Hood | Nancy Saari |
| Tom Henning | Bobby Yingling |
| Joann Stull | Carole Hill |
| Rudy Feuerschutz | Ken Morningstar |
| Randy Brodbeck | Joe Morningstar |

IN GOD'S SERVICE

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Interim Pastor: | Rev. Herb Ruby |
| Secretary: | Jane Rodkey |
| Secretary's email: | office@ebucc.com |
| Accompanist: | Jen Sullivan Brown |
| Consistory President: | George Hardinger |
| Liturgist: | Sandra Stonesifer |

Greetings all!

As we all know, the Holidays are quickly approaching. We shouldn't forget the reason for the season! Giving to the less fortunate is what Jesus wants us to do. Baust UCC will be holding our annual reverse advent food drive.

Attached is the Advent calendar and details.

We ask that you consider participating in the food drive. Monetary donations will also be accepted. The Carroll County Food Drive pantry has been quite low recently. Let's fill those shelves!

2024 BAUST UCC REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Let's count the days of advent by helping those who are less fortunate! Each day of December add listed item into a box. On Christmas Eve bring your box to church and place in the Good Shepard room. The boxes of food will be donated to Carroll Food Sunday. If you are not able to do the shopping, we will gladly take donations of any amount and we will do the shopping. Generic items are fine. Aldi is a great store for a lot of these items at reasonable prices. These are only suggestions. ANY non-perishable food item would be accepted.

- December 1 – Box of pasta (any type)**
- December 2 – Jar of peanut butter**
- December 3 – Can of pasta with meat (beef ravioli, etc.)**
- December 4 – Bottle/boxes 100% pure juice (any flavor)**
- December 5 – Can of meat (spam, ham, etc.)**
- December 6 – Can of chicken**
- December 7 – Can/jar of gravy (any flavor)**
- December 8 – Box of pancake mix (only requires water)**
- December 9 – Can of soup (low sodium if possible)**
- December 10 – Jar of applesauce**
- December 11 – Jar of jelly (any flavor)**
- December 12 – Can of tuna**
- December 13 – Can/bag of beans (any)**
- December 14 – Jar of spaghetti sauce (with meat if possible)**
- December 15 – Bottle of pancake syrup (will take light/no sugar)**
- December 16 – Box/canister of oatmeal or oats**
- December 17 – Box of Cereal**
- December 18 – Can of fruit (peaches or pears)**
- December 19 – Box/bag of rice**
- December 20 – Box of Muffin mix (only requires water)**
- December 21 – Bottle of vegetable oil**
- December 22 – Can of chili (with meat)**
- December 23 – Can of vegetable (any)**
- December 24 – Box of instant potatoes**

You can also leave your box in the Parsonage mud room. Thank you for your support!

Contact Beth Raver with questions. 717-965-7019 or
ravers.mali@gmail.com

2025 Altar flowers

It's time to reserve your dates for altar flowers for 2025! Our friends at The Cutting Garden will continue to provide fresh flower arrangements for our two altar vases, and they are very willing to work with us on specific colors and types of flowers, as well as other sizes and containers. Cutting Garden will deliver the fresh bouquets each week and will put them in place on the altar. The bouquets are yours, to take with you after the service. Please remember to return the green vase inserts to the small back room near the rear entrance.

Please note that there has been a donation to our Altar Flower Fund which allows EBUCC to continue our longtime charge of \$40.00 for delivery of two fresh bouquets.

So, again, \$40.00 for altar flowers for all of 2025.

Reserve dates by indicating your choices on the order form below and return it along with payment to Susan Hardinger. Pay by cash or check; make your check payable to EBUCC and note "altar flowers." If you wish to provide your own flowers, that's fine too! Please complete the form, and return it to Susan, before making your own delivery and payment arrangements.

Susan Hardinger 1147 Humbert Schoolhouse Rd, Westminster MD 21158 or shardinger@aol.com or 443-789-0142

2025

[red] = date already reserved

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 5 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 12 | 9 | 9 | 13 | 11 | 8 | 13 | 10 | 14 | 12 | 9 | 14 |
| 19 | 16 | 16 | 20 | 18 | 15 | 20 | 17 | 21 | 19 | 16 | 21 |
| 26 | 23 | 23 | 27 | 25 | 22 | 27 | 24 | 28 | 26 | 23 | 28 |
| | | 30 | | | 29 | | 31 | | | 30 | |

2025 Dates for flowers to be placed in church: _____

Names of Donors: _____ Phone: _____

Bulletin listing and liturgist's announcement:
 "Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God, in loving memory/honor/celebration/recognition, etc.

of _____

by _____"

_____ Please order flowers for me. _____ check or cash enclosed

OR

_____ I will provide my own flowers.



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