

Evangelical United Church of Christ
 33 South Ellis Street, Cape Girardeau, Missouri
December 20, 2009
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Fund Offering Sunday
 [*Those who are able are invited to stand]

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: All through this season of Advent, we have encountered Hope, Peace, and Joy.

PEOPLE: Today Belief and Love are the theme.

LEADER: Today we will hear the story of surprising commitment.

PEOPLE: We will learn of Mary and God's wonderful love.

LEADER: Today we will be challenged to believe in all that God can do.

PEOPLE: Open our hearts, Lord, that we may be ready for your love. AMEN.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

[During this order the fourth Advent candle, one other than the central Christ candle, is lighted.]

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES

LEADER: Soon we shall celebrate the birth of Jesus. We worship God with joy in our hearts as we are reminded of the words the angel said on that first Christmas Day: "Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people."

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Read John 15:9-11.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

LEADER: We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light, there is joy, joy that is ours not only at Christmas but always.

[Light the fourth candle in the wreath.]

PRAYER

LEADER: O Holy One, as Christmas draws near, there is a sense of excitement in the air. We can feel a joy in our lives and see it in those around us. Still, for some of us this is a sad time because of unhappy things that have happened in our lives. Help us to have the joy that does not depend on earthly happiness but on you. Help us to be filled with your joy so that we may share it with a joyless world.

ALL: Amen.

Prayer List —December 20, 2009

In case of hospitalization or surgery please notify our church office. When being admitted to a hospital be sure to tell them that you are affiliated with this congregation. * indicates a new request. **Please note: after six months names will be removed from the prayer list, unless an update is made to the church office.**

*Leo Amelunke; 12-09 *Josh Amelunke; 12-09 *Marvin Best, JR; 12-09 Ruth Bierschwal; 07-09 Connie Blattner; 11-09 Dora Briggs; 07-09 Aleene Ellinger; 08-09 [Jane McMillan's Mother] Lillian Graden; 09-09 Virginia Heise; 08-09 Joan Hope Ernie Jordan; 10-09 *Ida Mae Jordan; 12-09 Michael Juegens; 05-09 [Lisa Spencer's Brother] *Carolyn Keese; 12-09 [Bolton Family Friend] David Kies; 11-09 Mehrle Family; 06-09 Cindy McMillan Morris	[Rhonda's Cousin]; 08-09 Ester Nussbaum Marilyn Propst; 11-09 Jean Ratliff; 08-09 [Jamaican CMM] Bob Roloff; 09-09 Jacob Sandvos; 11-09 [Barbara Lynch's Grandson] Slaughter Family; 08-09 Chris Spivey; 05-09 [Michelle's Nephew] Tanner Stallins; 10-09 Margaret Tallent; 07-09 Marjorie Thompson; 07-09 J.D. Treadwell; 09-09 Norma Trickey; 05-09 *Burnell Turner; 11-09 Winfield Family; 07-09	Ratliff Nursing Home Polly Wilmsmeyer Fountainbleau Lodge Alta Proffer Veteran's Home Frank Maevers, Sr. Kenny Mehrle Lutheran Home Dorothy Cole Leonard Moore Ester Nussbaum House Bound Loyd Bollinger S.G. Coy Mary Huckstep David Kies Helen Owens
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Financial Report	General Fund	Memorial Gen. Fund	Memorial Fund	Building Fund	Misc.
12-06-09	\$2,300.00	\$20.00	---	\$10.00	\$15.00
12-13-09	\$5,531.00	---	---	\$11.00	\$136.00
12-20-09					
12-27-09					
Worship Dates	# of People	Scholarship Fund	OCWM	Sunday School	Total Offering
12-06-09	50	\$100.00	\$20.00	\$40.00	\$2,505.00
12-13-09	53	---	\$5.00	\$22.00	\$5,705.00
12-20-09					
12-27-09					

Welcome first time guests! We're glad that you are here! We invite everyone to complete a Communication card [located on the Information Table] and place it in the offering plate. You are important to us and we want to know that you are here.

Evangelical United Church of Christ

33 S. Ellis Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703
[573] 335-5611
Email Address: eucc-cape@sbcglobal.net
Web Site: www.evangelicalucc-cape.org
Pastor: Pastor Daniel Johnson
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Ernest Jordan
Organist: Beverly Reece
Sound System: Terry & Mindy Best

Diaconate

Rebecca Schild

Greeters

Paul & Marilyn Propst

Reader

Jennifer Stahlman

Ushers

Paul Propst, Bill Bolton, Frank
Maevers, JR., Jeff Sneathen, and
Alvin Spencer

On the Calendar

Dec 20 Sunday Worship, 10:35 AM
SS Christmas Program, 6:30 PM
Dec 21 Council, 7:30 PM
Dec 22 Christmas Caroling, 8:00 AM
Dec 23 NO Confirmation Class
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service, 5 :00 PM
Dec 25 Merry Christmas — Office Closed
Dec 27 Fellowship Time, 9:00 AM
Adult Bible Study, 9:30 AM
Sunday School, 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship, 10:35 AM
Communion by Intinction
Dec 31 New Year's Eve
Jan 1 Happy New Year — Office Closed

SS Christmas Program

Our Sunday School Program is tonight at 6:30 PM. Santa will put in a special visit for young children and the young at heart. **Remember help the UCC group by donating cookies for the reception.**

Christmas Caroling

The Confirmation students of the area UCC congregations are traveling to Emmaus Home to go Christmas Caroling. Everyone is invited to come along. Please meet at Emanuel church around 7:45 AM, be ready to leave at 8:00 AM. Questions ask Pastor Dan.

Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve Candle Light Service will be at 5:00 PM on Thursday, December 24th.

Apple Butter

**41 Quarts
\$6.00 per Qt**

Dumplings

**22 Bags
\$3.50 per bag**

**I AM LIGHT,
JOY, LIFE,
LOVE,
PEACE,
HERE!**

***HYMN OF ADORATION —270**

“Joy to the World!”

INTROIT

LEADER: Let us pray.

ALL: Lord, be with us this morning as we encounter Mary and hear of the wondrous news that she received. Remind us that, like Mary, each one of us is a bearer of your Good News. We are called to proclaim hope, peace, joy, and love in your name. Open our hearts and our spirits today to receive with great joy the love that you have for us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

LEADER: Let us pray.

ALL: Lord, we are so excited. Christmas is almost here. We are impatient to hear the whole story. Slow us down again, Lord. Cause us to look at the blossoming of the branch and remind us that your love is blossoming in our lives. As we hear Mary say "Yes!" to God's good news, help us to remember that God continually calls us to be those who will bear the good news to those in need. Forgive us when we forget to do that. Heal our wounds and bind up our spirits. Enable us to go into your world offering our lives, our gifts, our talents, for your glory. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LEADER: God's love and faithfulness have been at work in us. We are healed and forgiven. Rejoice in God's love and blossom.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

LEADER: The peace of the Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

LEADER: Let us pass the peace of Christ to one another.

***SONG OF PRAISE —291**

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

RESPONSIVE READING: The Song of Mary (Magnificat) Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

GLORIA

ALL SING: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

LEADER: Let us pray. Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
PEOPLE: AMEN.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Micah 5:2-5a	Page 1445
Hebrews 10:5-10	Page 1873
*Luke 1:39-45	Page 1588

SERMON—Pastor Daniel Johnson
“Leaping Spirits”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles’ Creed
[Please see insert.]

CHORAL ANTHEM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER

LEADER: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us,
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. And 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO OFFERING —Pastor Dan

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE —815 *“Doxology”*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION: THE CHRISTMAS FUND

ONE: Let us pray. Eternal God, you have called us to obedience to the faith for the sake of Christ’s name among all the nations.

PEOPLE: We praise and thank you for our church’s pastors who have instructed and encouraged us in faith through all the years.

ONE: We remember those who continue to serve the church through their prayers, through participation in church life, and in public service.

PEOPLE: In good times and hard times, bless them with courage and steadfast faith. Bless also these gifts. We offer them as gifts of compassion and gratitude for those obedient to you in their time of leadership and in their time of need. During these holy days, anticipating your advent, hold them and all your children close. In Christ’s name, Amen.

*HYMN OF PARTING —265
“The First Noel”

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

LEADER: God asks us if we will be God’s people. Our hearts want to shout yes! Go into the world, feeling God’s healing presence in your lives. Tell others about God’s love. Do not be afraid! God is truly with you. The love of God bless you, the grace of Jesus Christ fill you, and the enthusiasm of the Holy Spirit be born in us all as we wait with joy the day of the Lord’s coming.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

*CHORAL EXTROIT

*POSTLUDE