



**THE UNITED CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)**

*"To be and share the Good News of Jesus Christ"*

**499 E. Malden Drive, Coal Center PA 15423**  
**Pastor Amory Merriman 724-938-2098; cell 724-322-8220**  
**Office Hours: 9am-1pm, Monday, Wednesday & Friday**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – February 2, 2025**

**Lectionary Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21:30**

**+ GATHERING IN PRAISE AND PRAYER +**

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS & CONCERNS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**PRAYER FOR PEACE**

*Archbishop Hosam Naoum, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem*

**PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

**A READING FROM THE PSALMS**

**Psalm 71:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

<sup>2</sup>In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.

<sup>3</sup>Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

<sup>4</sup>Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

<sup>5</sup>For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

<sup>6</sup>Upon you I have learned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 71:1-6)**

One: In the midst of the challenges of our lives

**Many: we gather, turning to God, our refuge!**

One: We ask God to rescue us from unjust and cruel situations.

**Many: We trust in the goodness of the Holy, knowing our Creator yearns for all to be safe.**

One: Together we raise our voices to worship God, who holds each one like a loving mother.

**Many: Praise God!**

**\* OPENING HYMN**

**"Gather Us In"+  
RH #284, v 1 & 2**

*Here in this place, the new light is streaming,  
Shadows of doubt are vanished away.  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,  
Brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
Gather us in; our spirits in flame.  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;  
We shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives a mystery;*

*We are the old, who yearn for your face.  
We have been sun throughout all of history,  
Called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly;  
Give us the courage to enter the song.*

### **\* INVOCATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**We turn to you, Rock of our lives, trusting your steadfast love and care. Thank you for the many ways you assure us of your presence. Thank you for the many times we've been able to lean on you. Thank you now for this time for us to lift our voices in praise, deepen our thoughts to gain new understanding, and widen our awareness of the Body of Christ to which you call us. Indeed, it is in Christ's name we lift the prayer he 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 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 forever. Amen.**

### **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**All: God makes peace within us. Let us claim it. God makes peace between us. Let us share it.**

One: Let us greet another as a sign of God's peace.

(Share God's peace among you.)

The peace of God is here... to stay.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **PRAYER RESPONSE**

**"Be Still and Know"+  
CP #89**

*Be still and know I am God Almighty;  
I will be with you in the stillness of your soul.*

### **+ GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED AND SHARED +**

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (The Message)**

13 If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

2 If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

3-7 If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.

Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.

Love doesn't strut,

Doesn't have a swelled head,

Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first,"  
Doesn't fly off the handle,  
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,  
Doesn't revel when others grovel,  
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,  
Puts up with anything,  
Trusts God always,  
Always looks for the best,  
Never looks back,  
But keeps going to the end.

<sup>8-10</sup> Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

**\* "GLORIA PATRI"**

*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.*

**GOSPEL READING**

**Luke 4:21-30**

<sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." <sup>22</sup>All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" <sup>23</sup>He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" <sup>24</sup>And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. <sup>25</sup>But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup>yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup>There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." <sup>28</sup>When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup>They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

**MESSAGE**

**"The Sound and the Two Furies"**

**INVITATION HYMN**

**"The Gift of Love"+  
RH #526, v 1 & 2**

*Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
And have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love, my words are vain,  
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess,  
And striving so my love profess,  
But not be given by love within,  
The profit soon turns strangely thin.*

**+ WE MEET CHRIST AT THE TABLE +**

**COMMUNION MEDITATION**

## HYMN OF COMMUNION

“I Come with Joy”+  
RH #420, v 1 & 2

*I come with joy, a child of God,  
Forgiven, loved and free,  
The life of Jesus to recall,  
In love laid down for me,  
In love laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
The new community of love  
In Christ's communion bread,  
In Christ's communion bread.*

## THE ELDERS' PRAYERS FOR THE BREAD AND THE CUP

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE HOLY FEAST

We remember the tradition recalling that as Jesus shared a meal with his friends, he took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it saying:

“This is my body which is broken for you. This bread is a reminder to work for reconciliation and wholeness – for *shalom*. Share this bread among you. Do this to remember me.”

#### **Partake of the bread.**

When supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying:

“This cup is another covenant given to you in my life and witness. This is the cup of compassion for a broken world. Share this cup among you. Do this to remember me.”

#### **Partake of the cup.**

May this bread and cup nourish and sustain us on our life's journey: transforming, enabling, and empowering us, as we continue to follow in the way of Jesus – the way of hope, peace, joy, and love.

## **+ GOING FORTH TO SERVE +**

## HYMN OF COMMITMENT

“I Come with Joy”+  
RH #420, v 5

*Together met, together bound  
By all that God has done,  
We'll go with joy, to give the world  
The love that makes us one,  
The love that makes us one.*

## OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

**GOD IS GOOD! ALL THE TIME!  
ALL THE TIME! GOD IS GOOD!**

## MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

## OFFERTORY

**\* DOXOLOGY+**

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

**\* UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Giving God, We recognize the reality of Jesus' work in our lives today when we lovingly share our offering. Thank you for the week-by-week awareness that your love isn't limited to this congregation, this community, or this country. Please help us utilize these gifts to continually expand our horizons, reaching out to share bread, clean water, safety and love not only here but to the ends of the earth. AMEN

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* DEPARTING HYMN**

**"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"+  
RH #434, v 1**

*God be with you till we meet again;  
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.*

**SERVING SCHEDULE**

**SERVING FEBRUARY 2**

**Elders: Jeremy Beeler – W; Lisa Hadju – B  
Deacons: Debbie Carnello Fisher, Kevin Fisher – W  
Deacons: Randy Tunney, Tom Hartley – B  
Worship Leader: Clint Hajdu  
Greeter: Sharon Mayle**

**SERVING FEBRUARY 9**

**Elders: Lisa Hadju – W; Sherri Lacey – B  
Deacons: Randy Tunney, Tom Hartley – W  
Deacons: Jeff Buday, Beth Boehm – B  
Worship Leader: Lisa Buday  
Greeter: Midge Kennedy**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

**10am           Worship**

**After Worship Chili Cook-Off! Sign up to enter the competition!**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5**

**4:30-6pm      LOL. Meal needed!**

**6:30pm        Capital Campaign Committee and Property Ministry Team Meeting**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

**7pm            Grief Support Gathering**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

**All reports for the church board are due in the office.**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

**6:15            Elder Prayer Gathering in the Norman C. Hunt Memorial Library**

**6:30            Board Meeting in the Norman C. Hunt Memorial Library**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 & FEBRUARY 23**

**Week of Compassion offerings received**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 4**

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner fundraiser! Mark your calendars to volunteer, sell tickets, and eat!**

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**Names added to the prayer chain will remain in the weekly list for one calendar month. After that, they will be moved to the Ongoing Prayer Concerns. Please let us know if a name can be removed from either list. If you are not receiving prayer requests via email and would like to, please give our office your email address and we will add you to the email group.**

**Prayer Chain 02/2/25:** Sandy Fischl, Arty Arnold, Sonny Wilson, Paul, Allyson, Dakota, Rosemary Capanna, Dan & Tina Gaser, Erlene, victims of the devastating fires in California and the first responders & volunteers who continue their work there, Eric, Cynthia Carnegie, Lisa Assad Hitchings, Tom Walters, Lois C., Charles Fetsko, Isabella Mazza-Fredley, Tracy Guzzi & family, Lee & Chuck Speicher, Larry Daubenspeck, Sam Abram, Kelly Krahrmer, Harold Krahrmer, Jason, Alicia Hruby, thanksgiving for a good medical report for Sherri, the family of Frank Price, peace in Lebanon, Israel & Palestine, Syria, Ukraine & Russia, Sudan, and around the world.

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:** The Abbott and Lacey Families \* James Adams \* Amber \* Ashton \* Caleb and Cheryl \* Carla Anderton \* Anthony \* Jacob Armstrong \* Barbara \* Susan Balla \* Dennis & Darla Beaumont \* Michael Belvis \* William Bosley, Jr. \* Brigitte \* Velda & Mike Brown \* Rosemary Capanna \* Cynthia & Bill Carnegie \* Charles \* Josh Clark Family \* Rachel Clements \* Lee Crum \* Michelle Csonka \* Sally Daley \* David \* Irma Davis \* Staci Anderson Dominick \* Thomas & Jody Dykins \* Patty Elmer \* Hannah Emerick \* Kim Emmerick \* Betty Falsetti \* Peg Fawcett \* Charles Fetsko \* Jaelyn Fife \* Bella Figueroa \* Kenneth Franks \* Kevin Franks \* Janet Fuentes \* Monica Gatten \* Athena Georgagis \* Alice Glawinski \* Greg \* Silas Gregg \* Elijah Hamilton \* Hallie & David \* Gary Hajdu \* Lisa Hajdu \* Charles Dale Hash \* Janet Hellner-Burris \* Judy Hess \* Jack Higinbotham \* Sue Holder & husband \* Alexis Hruby \* Aaron Huhn \* Michael & Allison Hunter \* Irene \* James \* Johnny \* Ken Johnson \* Karen \* Kate \* Carrie Hunt Kennedy \* Brenda Kerik \* Colton Killius \* Kiyoko \* Karen Krilosky \* Annmarie Lacey \* Shawn Laudenbacher \* Hope Lewis \* Brandon Lincoski \* Christie Heaton-Little \* Dale Lovell \* Sean Machusko \* Irene Mariscotti \* Barb Matola \* Dave Mayle \* Rich McDonald \* Gail Merriman \* Diana Michael \* Michelle \* Brianna Mitchell \* Carrie Moffet \* Molly \* Monica \* Nathaniel \* Bill Odes \* April Owens \* Tina & Michael Pasquale \* Nadine Pennell \* Janet Pecsco \* Gayle Phistner \* Lou Poli \* Tim Reedy \* Knox Rusnock \* Sam \* Norman & Sherri Shepley \* Shorty \* Hannah Simpson \* Larry Simpson \* Toni & John Sosnak \* Chuck & Lee Speicher \* Susan \* Zachary Timms \* Eloise Tower \* Kim & Gerald Valentine \* Roxanne Vavassas \* Jordan Whitacre \* Lenore Woods \* Zaiden \* Deb Zicht

**Special Care List:** Ruth Kudlac \* Monica Loskey \* Linda Novak \* Harry & Judy Shaposka

**STEWARDSHIP BY THE NUMBERS  
DECEMBER 2024 GENERAL FUND REPORT**

CASH & OFFERING DEPOSITS	\$ 21,588.22
ONLINE GIVING	\$ 2,304.33
TRANSFERS IN	\$ 300.01
TOTAL GIFTS/INCOME	\$ 24,192.56
EXPENSES	\$ 9,853.25
TRANSFER TO CAPITAL	\$ 6,446.99
TRANSFER TO MISSIONS	\$ 228.89
DIFFERENCE	+ \$ 7,663.43

INCLUDES NATIVITY OFFERING TO BE  
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GIVERS AND TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR  
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