



Morning Worship Celebration

December 4, 2011

177 Years of Reaching Up in Faith- -Reaching Out in Love

Adoration

Prayer Requests (Prayer requests are received by writing down prayers on the insert in the bulletin. These cards are passed down the pew, to the aisle, and collected by the Ushers during the Hymn of Praise. Then, during Time for Meditation and Prayer, these prayers are lifted up by the Congregation.)

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Welcome to Worship

Opportunities for Participation

Christmas Food Baskets Jeff Zannetti

Prelude "Pat-a-Pan" Traditional French Carol

Lighting of the Advent Candle

***Hymn** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" 114
(receive prayer requests)

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

Leader: God invites us to return and reconcile us into God's heart.

People: **God knows our troubled hearts and speaks peace, gently healing.**

Leader: We come together to worship God.

People: **Our hope, our guide, our source of peace and comfort.**

*Opening Prayer (Unison)

O God, you desire for your people to live lives of wholeness. You speak gentle words of comfort that remind us of your uplifting presence and call us back to you. Help us to feel your presence this time of worship that we might be renewed as your people. Amen.

*Response of Praise (sung)

**Glo – ri-a Glo – ri-a Glo – ri-a
Glo – ri-a Glo – ri-a Glo – ri-a**

*A Time of Greeting

GIVING GOD PRAISE

A Time with Our Children

(Elementary children may leave for Sunday School)

Choir Anthem "Holly and the Ivy"

Invitation to the Offering

(Please sign the attendance pad located at the center aisle end of the pew.)

The Offertory "Angels, From the Realms of Glory" Arr. Wilda J. Auld

*Response of Praise (Sung)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose power up-lifts.
Praise the Spir-it, Holy Spir-it
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!**

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

God of comfort and new beginnings, we turn back to you again, and bring you these gifts of money, of creativity, and of ourselves. Bless them and allow them to bring comfort to many. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn** "Be Still My Soul" 95

Prayers of the People and Prayer of our Savior

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.

Prayer Response (Sung)

**In my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied
In my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.**

LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK

Scripture Lessons Isaiah 40:1-11 (p. 619)
Sermon

***Hymn** "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" 115

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction Response "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"

**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.**

***Postlude** "Let Heaven and Nature Sing" Arr. Ron & Linda Sprunger

**Please stand if able.*

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to the following people for their talent in this service: Patty Duffy on flute, Jill Richardson on percussion, Lavonne Bomeli on piano and Shirley Wells on organ.

SUNDAY OFFERING

The Offering for Sunday, November 27th was \$3,768.00, Second Mile was \$340.00.

Our Stewardship Thought:
Love is the foundation of all giving. "For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son. . ."
John 3:16

Ministries & Special Events

POINSETTIA AND LIGHTS OF HOPE

Poinsettias and Lights of Hope are available for purchase. Please complete the enclosed card(s) and place in the offering plate.

BI-ANNUAL COAT DRIVE

The coat drive has ended today. The children's coats will be given to the Orphanage affiliated with the Spectrum Family Agency and the adult coats will be given to a local shelter.

MITTEN TREE

Please help those in need this year. Hats, scarves, and/or gloves can be hung on the tree or placed in the baskets under the tree located in the Fellowship Hall. Items will be accepted through **December 18th**.

FAMILY ADVENT NIGHT

Join your church family **today**. Family Advent Night is the best way to start the Christmas season. The night starts with a potluck. We ask that you bring a dish as noted by your last name: A-H: vegetable, I-Q: salad, and R-Z: casserole. Desserts will be provided by the Fellowship Team. The Spiritual Growth Team will be leading you in a family craft, and then move to the sanctuary for the Children's Christmas Program, "The Great Manger Mystery."

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

The Outreach Team is looking for volunteers to purchase perishables and/or turkeys for the 14 Grand Blanc families our church will be supplying with Christmas food baskets. You can purchase non-perishable items listed below by the first letter of your last name: A-C canned fruits/vegetables; D-G canned goods; H-L paper goods; M-P cleaning & laundry supplies; Q-S hygiene products; T-Z boxed goods: pastas, rice, etc., paper towels; Please see Marty Royer after worship **today** to sign up to purchase perishables or turkeys. Perishable and non-perishables items must be brought to the church no later than **Sunday, December 18th** for delivery on Thursday the 22nd. Thank you - The Outreach Team

CHRISTMAS ANGEL GIFTS - DUE BACK NEXT SUNDAY

We still have 27 children from the North End Soup Kitchen in Flint who are in need of Christmas gifts. We are asking volunteers to purchase gifts for these children, infant to 17 years old. For many this will be their only gift this Christmas. Gift tags will be available in the Fellowship Hall this Sunday, with the name and age of a child in need. Please attach the gift tag to your purchased gift and drop it off in the narthex no later than **Sunday, December 11th**. For questions please contact Karen Palevich at (810) 953-0412.

XYZ CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Christmas Celebration will be on **Thursday, December 15th**. Wear your festive Christmas apparel. Bring a dish to pass and your table service. Rolls, coffee and tea will be provided. The fun begins at 5:00, dinner served at 5:30, program to follow. Guests are always welcome.

Upward Coaching Training

The Date for training is on **Friday, December 16th** in the CLC, **Returning Coaches:** 6:00 - 7:00 PM; **New Coaches:** 7:00 - 9:00 PM.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN STATUS

We have received 86 pledges totaling \$227,296.00. Thank you to all who have pledged so far.

Please join us after worship for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

THANKS

To those who assisted in today's worship services

Ministers

All the Members

Senior Pastor

Rev. Joe Schulte

Organist

Lavonne Bomeli

Director of Music

Brandon Sanders

Public Address System

Bob Throop

Host

Barb Crawford

Greeters

The Stetkiw Family

Advent Readers

The Loomis Family

Lay Liturgist

Jane Wagner

Prayers

Deneen Munerance

Usher Captain

Sue VanHollebeke

Tally Team

Anne Stableford

Coffee Hour Hosts

Lynette & Ron Pruitt

Open & Close Church

Kay Gibson

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 4

8:30 Brother Square
9:00 Faith of Your Own
10:30 Worship
10:30 Sunday School
11:30 Fellowship
11:30 Christmas Celebration Practice
5:00 Advent Family Night
8:00 Men's Basketball

Monday, December 5

6:00 Sacred Parenting Class
6:00 Building & Grounds Mtg.

Tuesday, December 6

9:15 Bible Study
6:30 Spiritual Growth Team
6:30 Learning House Christmas Program
7:00 Alcoholic Anonymous
7:00 Forgiven Practice

Wednesday, December 7

10:00 Chapel
6:00 Autism Group Basketball
6:00 Outreach Team Mtg.
7:00 Seventh-Day Adventists

Thursday, December 8

4:30 Confirmation
7:00 Zumba
7:00 Choir

Friday, December 9

4:00 Wahlfors/Dubois Rehearsal
8:00 FABE

Saturday, December 10

9:00 Seventh-Day Adventists
12:00 Seventh-Day Adventists
4:00 Wahlfors/Dubois Wedding
7:00 Alcoholic Anonymous

Sunday, December 11

9:00 Faith of Your Own
10:30 Worship
10:30 Sunday School
10:30 The Net
11:30 Fellowship
6:30 The Net Basketball Practice
8:00 Men's Basketball

WELCOME!

The Second Sunday of Advent



"Our mission is to enable disciples to change the world to the glory of God by living the teachings of Jesus our Christ."



**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Phone: (810) 695-0550
E-Mail: fcucc_admin@sbcglobal.net
Web site: www.uccgrandblanc.org



Be Green at FCUCC!
Please use the
Blue Paper Recycling Bins



HEARING ASSISTANCE
If you need hearing assistance, ask an usher about our Williams Sound System.

Church Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Joe Schulte

Director of Youth & Educational Ministries

Tracy Loomis

Church Secretary

Wanda Kitchen

Chief Financial Officer

Carla Meier

Director of Music

Brandon Sanders

Organist

Lavonne Bomeli

Learning House Director

Susan Arnould

Parish Visitor

Barbara Benson

Custodian

Tom McLaren

Prayers and Concerns:

Please pray for Sharon Ballreich, Norma & Deloy Burrows, Joan Duff, Madeline Dunlap, Arnold Fletcher, Helen Jewett, Owen Mooney, Wilma Palmer, Claude Shinn, George Smith, Howard Weaver, & Dale Wells