

# **Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ**

1213 Dutch Lane Rd, Newark, Ohio 43055 740-745-1281  
highchurch@windstream.net <http://www.highwaterchurch.org>

## **December 17th, 2017**

*“Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ, will be an active family of faith in North Central Licking County, dedicated to building awareness of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit through meaningful worship, diverse service, and genuine fellowship.” - Mission Statement*



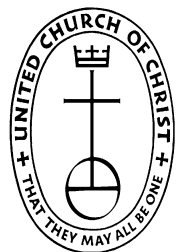
*“We never test the resources of God until we attempt the impossible.”  
-F.B. Meyer, British pastor (1847-1929)*

Rev. Scott Schieber, Pastor  
Joyce Oyler, Licensed Associate Pastor  
Mark McKimmins, Moderator  
Debbie Smetts, Office Administrator / Newsletter Editor  
Congregation, Ministers All

**Pianist: 8:30a** Laura Laughlin **10:30a** Cathy Bero, Janine Shipley

**Liturgist: 8:30a** Larry Wright **10:30a** Tammi Gibson

*(Please note: If able, Lay Reader takes up offering weekly, and will help with communion if signed up for 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday. Greeters and Ushers will help with Communion the 1st Sunday. Thank you)*





# Highwater Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**December 17th Third Sunday in Advent - LOVE**

**8:30a.m. & 10:30a.m. Service**

\* = stand if you are able    † = 10:30 a.m. service only    †† = 8:30 a.m. service only

## Proclamation of Praise

## Prelude / Acolytes / Ringing of the Bell

## Welcome / Announcements

### \* Hymn of Praise

*O, Come All Ye Faithful*

# 145 Gray

## Call to Worship

Leader: My soul magnify the Lord!

**People: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!**

Leader: The mighty One has done great things for us!

**People: Holy is God's name!**

Leader: Let us worship God.

**People: For God is our Creator and our Redeemer; from generation to generation, God gives mercy.**

## Prayer of Invocation

## Advent Candle Liturgy

Leader: In this season of Advent, we wait for Your Presence and your Love to be felt in our lives again. We await the birth of Jesus, the Savior of All, who comes into our lives in a new way.

**People: We are a people who seek to be brought together by the love of Christ. Our faith teaches us that God gives us unconditional love and forgiveness. Acknowledging God's free gift of grace, we light the Candle of Love.**

### Special Music †

*Hallelujah Christmas*

**Bob Tucker**

### Children's Message † Children Dismissed for Sunday School /Pageant Practice

## Gospel Text

**Luke 1:39-45 (NRSV)**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be <sup>[d]</sup>a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

**Leader** This is the Word of the Lord!

**People** Thanks be to God!

\* **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.**

**Homily on Luke 1:39-45**

**Pastor Scott Schieber**

**Special Music †**

*Do You Hear what I Hear*

**Highwater Choir**

**Joys and Concerns / Pastoral Prayer / Lord's Prayer**

***Candle Dedication***

*Prayers for Our UCC Congregations: Zion UCC, Delaware*

**Sharing of our Tithes and Offerings / Offertory**

\* **Doxology**

**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**

\* **Offertory Prayer**

\* **Hymn**

*The First Noel*

**# 136 Gray**

**New Testament Text**

**Luke 1:46-55 (NRSV)**

<sup>46</sup>And Mary<sup>[e]</sup> said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

**Special Music †**

*Glory of Christmas*

**Highwater Choir**

\* **Hymn**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

**# 138 Gray**

\* **Benediction / Response -**

*A Nativity Prayer*

**# 126 Gray**

**O holy child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in; Be born in us today.**

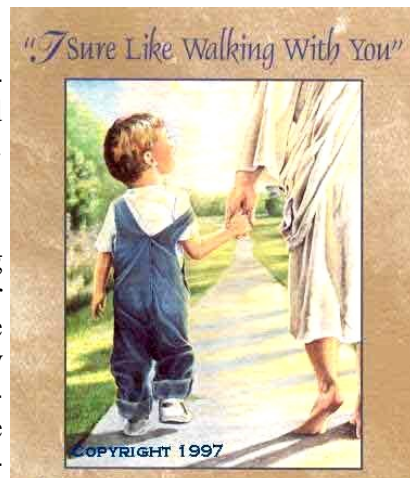
**Postlude**

## ***If you have children...***

**-Newborn – pre-school** A Cry Room is available for your use during the worship service. It is located above the Sanctuary. You can use the stairs located through the door directly to the left as you exit the main doors of the Sanctuary. You can hear and see the service from this room..

**-Pre-K – K** (pre-K means that your child will start kindergarten in the upcoming school year)...your child is invited to Sunday School with our BUGS (Born Under God's Sun), which meets in the Lower Level Learning Center. To get to the LLLC, exit the sanctuary, go down the steps, and turn left and find the doorway which leads to the steps leading into the LLLC. The BUGS receive a Biblical lesson, usually the same scriptures we discover in our worship service and do some activities around the scripture lesson. Sunday School ends shortly after our worship service ends.

**-1st Grade – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**...your child is invited to Sunday School with our TIGERS (Trusting In God for Every Reason), which meets in the Lower Level Learning Center. To get to the LLLC, exit the sanctuary, go down the steps, and turn left and find the doorway which leads to the steps leading into the LLLC. The TIGERS receive a Biblical lesson, usually the same scriptures we discover in our worship service and do some activities around the scripture lesson. Sunday School ends shortly after our worship service ends.



## **Sunday School**

**Teaching the BUGS in December, (Pre-K and K)  
Kathy Preston and Janine Shipley**

**Dress Rehearsal for all Children  
December 17th at 11:30a**

**9:30a Worship Service on the 24th No Sunday School  
9:30a Worship Service on the 31st No Sunday School**

## ***If you are visiting...***

Welcome! We pray that you'll find our worship service meaningful and uplifting, and our congregation welcoming and friendly. We know that coming to a new church can be a little uncomfortable. If we can assist you in any way, please let us know! During the worship service, please be sure to provide contact information on our pew pads so Pastor Scott can reach out and thank you for attending.

## ***Thank You for Serving .....***

**Greeters and Ushers for December 17th - Open**

*† (Please note: If able, Greeters take up offering weekly, and help with communion on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday. Thank you.)*

## Announcements and Information

**Monday Noon Bible Study - Through December. Advent Study: Faithful Christians through the eyes of Joseph (Hamilton). Monday December 18th we will meet in the church library.**

**Christmas Pageant / Family Lasagna Nite-** Wednesday, December 20th. Please sign up to bring desserts and salads or bread. We will have dinner at 6p and the Pageant will follow at 6:45p

**WISH to Host Licking County Trustees -** Saturday, January 6th at 12p. Please sign up to help.

**Blood Drive -** Sunday, January 14th 8a-12p. Reserve your time now!

**UCC Christmas Fund** - For 116 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world. One of the four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, the Christmas Fund provides UCC congregations and members an opportunity to reach out in kindness to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. In 2016, UCC congregations and members generously contributed \$1,562,260 to the Offering. This enabled the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards, to provide, on behalf of the whole Church, Supplementation of Small Annuities, Retiree Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks to individuals and families in need. The theme of the 2017 Christmas Fund Offering is *Shepherding the Light*, and our goal is to raise \$1.7 million to help support these ministries of light and love. The recipients of these gifts have faithfully served the church and now, in their time of need, we can be the church to them. We invite and encourage you to shepherd God's light and support this year's appeal. *Please read the inserts for personal stories. We will collect for this special offering on Christmas Eve Nite.*

### **Sunday Morning Worship Service:**

**December 24th 9:30a**

**December 31st 9:30a**

#### **Highwater Congregational United Church of Christ Prayer List**

##### **Prayer Concerns within our Family of Faith:**

Betty Nash Gayle Gibson Bob Tucker Dave Nash Larry Steele Larry Smetts  
Susan Hatch Ned Campbell Rev. Ed Lopeman Laurie Garno

##### **Prayers for our Shut-ins:**

JoAnn Gault, Bruce & Carolyn Claggett, Goldie Campbell, Rosie Shipley

##### **Prayers for Our UCC Congregations: Zion UCC, Delaware**




##### **Prayers for Our Greater Church Family: (This list to start over every month)**

John Stout	Stewart Krulikowski & Family	Kathy Barch	Samantha Buchanan
Sharon Mummey	Theresa Gonda	Ellen Alheim	Jim Buyer
Mark Frick	Marge Davis	Darrell Rinker	Chris Bradley
Carl Richards	Norman Burgel	Sarah Kaiser	Emmy Green
Marsha King	Bill Spray	Abby Combs	Family of:
Genevieve Gerhart	Joy Robertson	Donald Davis	Shirley Ashbrook
Evajean Greenlun	Sherry Gibson	Cindy Twyford	Desiree Barker
	Shirley Cannon		



Continued prayers for all the troops that protect and serve this country and prayers of comfort for their families as they wait for their safe return. Holly McKimmins and Tanner MacLachlan.


# This Week at Highwater, December 18th –December 24th

<b>Monday 18</b>	<b>Tuesday 19</b>	<b>Wednesday 20</b>	<b>Thursday 21</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday 23</b>	<b>Sunday 24</b>
<p>Pastor Scott Available</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Noon Bible Study In Library</b></p>	<p>Pastor Scott Available</p>	<p>Pastor Scott Available</p> <p><b>7a-1p</b> Debbie in Church Office</p> <p><b>6p</b> Lasagna Potluck <b>6:45p</b> Christmas Pageant</p>	<p>Pastor Scott Available</p> <p><b>7a-10a</b> Debbie in Church Office</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Happy Birthday</b> Steve Barna</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Happy Anniversary</b> Dave &amp; Mary Jo Layman</p>			<p><b>9:30a</b> Worship Service</p> <p><b>5:00p</b> Christmas Eve Family Service</p> <p><b>11:00p</b> Christmas Eve Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Happy Birthday</b> Judy Grace</p>

**Pastor Scott (c) 614 - 226 -1314**  
**Pastor Joyce (c) 614 - 595- 4771**

**Scripture for December 24th**  
**Advent IV—JOY**  
**Isaiah 40:1-11 John 16:20-33**

**Internet Access In Sanctuary:**  
 Network: Highwater\_almond  
 Password: Highwater1



Help is needed as we prepare to leave Pilgrim Hills and transition to Temple Hills. Can we assemble a Highwater workgroup to donate a Saturday at camp? If you are interested, please email Pastor Joyce at [oylerj@gmail.com](mailto:oylerj@gmail.com). Once we have a group identified, we will determine a date that works well for camp and for us.