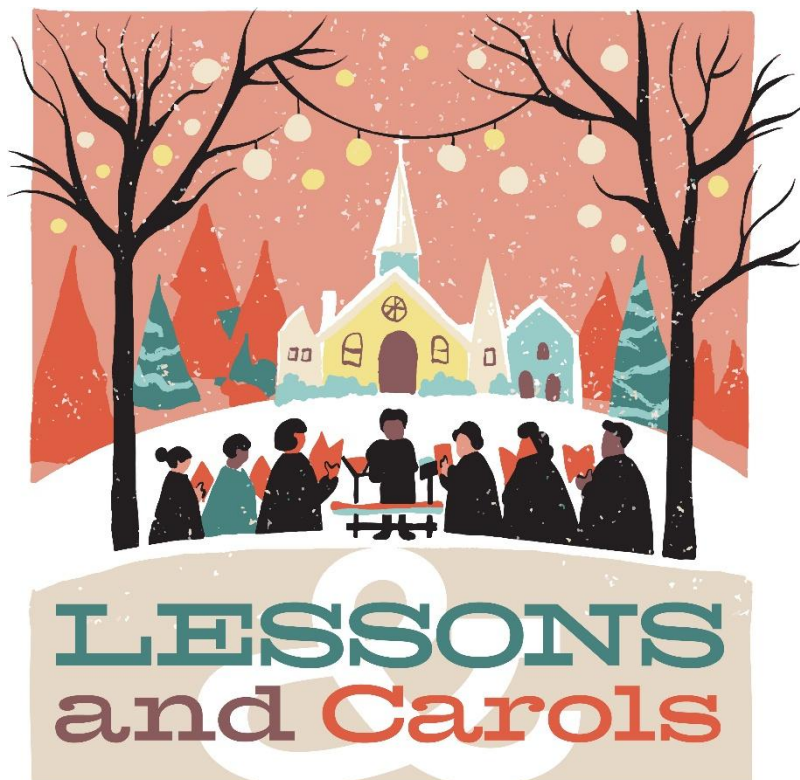


# Christ Church

an Open & Affirming Congregation  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST



**December 28, 2025**

Worship Leader: Janet Key  
Music Director: Terryl Dietert  
Musician: Sue Cribb  
Guitar/Visuals: Paul Mayeshiba  
Video: Richard Tremarello  
Liturgist: Julie Oren

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*Welcome to Christ Church!* We are so glad you are here this morning! Whether you are a "first-timer," a regular, or somewhere in between, it is a joy to have you here with us this day. May you be blessed by God's Word in worship today! If you are a **first-time visitor**, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the offering plate, and then make your way to the Chapel (in the back) after worship where we have a small gift for you.

*\*Please stand as you are able*

## Prelude

*What Child Is This?* - Robert Hughes

## Lighting the Advent Candles

The circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes God's infinite love for us—it is never-ending, just like the true Light of the World, Jesus, who leads us into eternal life with Him. The materials of the Advent wreath similarly lead us to reflect on the everlasting nature of God; traditionally, Advent wreaths have been made of evergreen leaves, such as pine or fir, which maintain their green color beyond the season in which they are collected. Nowadays, there are many modern interpretations of Advent wreaths that still help us celebrate the traditional meaning of the wreath: preparing the way for the Light of the World, Jesus.

\*Hymn of Welcome     *Good Christian Friends Rejoice***Hymn #198**

## \*Call to Worship

Leader: We gather this morning, ready to listen.

**All: Open our ears, O Lord.**

Leader: We gather this morning, ready to learn.

**All: Open our minds, O Lord.**

Leader: We gather this morning, ready to love.

**All: Open our hearts, O Lord.**

Leader: We gather this morning, ready to worship.

**All: Open our mouths and loosen our tongues, that we might sing your praises, O Lord.**

Leader: We gather to praise the Lord God Almighty!

## The Story Behind the Hymn

Janet Key

## Hymn

*Away in the Manger***Hymn #203**

## The Story Behind the Hymn

Janet Key

## Hymn

*Angels from the Realms of Glory***Hymn #189**

## Prayer of Yearning

Julie Oren

**Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth, may we begin to see the world in the light of understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving. Amen.**

The Theme of Anticipation

Janet Key

Hymn

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**Hymn #153**

Hymn

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**Hymn #182**

The Use of Hymns in Worship

Janet Key

First Reading: Psalms 149: 1-9 (King James Version)

Julie Oren

Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.

Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.

Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand;

To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;

To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;

To execute upon them the judgment written: this honor have all his saints. Praise ye the Lord.

The Gift of Music

*Is It True?* - Craig Curry

Soloist, Pam Kothrade

Second Reading: Psalms 150: 1-6 (King James Version)

Julie Oren

Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.

The Gloria      **Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me  
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.  
World without end, without end, Amen.  
World without end, without end, Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

Text & Music by Paul M. Vasile|©2008 by Paul M. Vasile|CCLI License #1905256

A Message for The Young at Heart

Janet Key

Prayers of the People

Janet Key

For those experiencing trials or ongoing health concerns: *Kathy B,  
Gloria H, Judy B, Jerry G, Bonnie & Jeff J, Nicole, Bart, Tom, Laurel, Bill, Blair,  
Joe, Kozy, Stacy, Susie*

Pastoral Prayer

Janet Key

The Lord's Prayer

**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, the power, and the glory  
forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity

Julie Oren

The blessings we receive—in wisdom, in years, and in  
favor—are meant to be shared. When we use these gifts  
to sustain the ministry of the church and respond to the  
needs of the community, we personify the good news in  
the world! Let us give with boldness and boundless trust  
in the provision of the Creator of all.

SCAN TO DONATE



Offertory

*He is Born* - J. Fischer and Bros.

\*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures here below  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost, Amen**

\*Offertory Prayer

Julie Oren

**God of generosity, may your peace and your love seep into our hearts and our offerings, that we might become shining examples of your light in a dark and hurting world. Thank you for your many gifts, this gift of community, the enthusiasm for learning, the power of generosity, and the gift of love. May our gifts and our very lives bring your blessings to the world. Amen.**

The Story Behind the Hymn

Janet Key

\*Closing Hymn

*Joy to the World!*

**Hymn #179**

\*Benediction

Janet Key

Go in peace; and may the joy of Mary upon seeing her newborn son be in your hearts. May God fill you with his Spirit and speak to your innermost being, guiding you in the way you should go. And may the love of Christ surround you and shine forth from you; both now and forevermore.

\*Benediction Song

*Go Tell It On The Mountain*

**Hymn #218**

Postlude

*Joy To The World* - William Stickles

## **THIS WEEK at CHRIST CHURCH**

### **Today**

Lessons & Carols Sunday

Property Committee Meeting

**Counters:** Sara Rogers, Jill Unglaub

**Greeters:** Joan Amich

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thank You!** | A big THANKS to all who contributed to our Christmas present donations for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission. The gifts have been delivered, and the staff was so thankful for our donation. We donated 13 board games, 9 Lego sets, 10 craft kits, 2 puzzles, 2 playdough kits, 8 card games, 6 cosmetic kits, 10 bath sponges, 1 football, 2 soccer balls, 3 coloring books, 3 packs of crayon/markers, 4 action figures, 1 baby doll, 2 truck sets, 4 blankets, 7 pajamas, 8 Amazon gift cards, and 2 hat and mitten sets. Your generosity will make the holidays brighter for others in our community.

We wanted to thank everyone who helped with planning, contributed food, and assisted the day of the Advent Brunch. Special thanks to our kitchen staff of Dean Kothrade, Mark Pfeifer, and Bob Polachowski. It was a lovely time of fellowship with our guest speaker highlighting the meaning of Advent, and a lovely song provided by Nancy Charles, accompanied by Pam Kothrade. We offer our heartfelt thanks to everyone for making this event possible!

Wishing you a blessed Christmas, *Your Social Concerns Committee*

**Loretta Senderhauf** called to say, "Thank you so much for the lovely gift bag. I really liked the apple pie and all the other goodies. I also want to thank everyone for the beautiful Christmas Card. Thank you for thinking of me. It is so nice to be remembered when you can't be at church. Merry Christmas, everyone! I'm wishing you health and happiness and a whole lot of laughs!"

**Please pick up** your 2026 offering envelopes in the Chapel.

**Amazing Faiths LUNCH Dialogue** | Gather for LUNCH at NOON on Monday, **Dec 29** at Cudahy United Methodist Church. People of all faiths and no faith, all spiritualities and theologies gather in small groups to share a meal and participate in a moderated discussion using a proven model, evoking deep exchanges about lived experiences and the role of faith and/or spirituality in their lives. Through exploration and dialogue, participants learn about the beliefs and traditions of others within an atmosphere of respect and understanding, and are empowered to stand as witnesses for tolerance and inclusion. Register at <https://www.interfaithconference.org/amazing-faiths-project>

**Hunger Task Force** | We'll be working at Hunger Task Force (5000 W. Electric Ave.) on Wednesday, **Jan 7** from 9am to noon assembling food boxes for seniors. This is a fun and fast-paced opportunity to do some real good for our seniors. Please sign up on the Lenox Street bulletin board. Any questions, see *Andy Oren*.

**End-of-the-Year-Stewardship-Campaign!** | We are a family—a beautiful church family. We have a solid history of pulling together in times of need and in times of joy. We show up in a BIG way to support our family, and I'm so very proud to say *that is who we are.*

By now you should have received an end of the year letter from Christ Church. We are excited to begin our new Stewardship Campaign to raise \$11,000 by **Dec 31!** Yes, you heard that correctly, by Dec 31. We have decided to meet the new year “head on” with a goal of \$11,000 in order to meet our 2026 budget.

Please take a look at the lovely poster board Christmas tree display in our chapel. Thank you, Jan Naefken for creating this beautiful display! Each time we collect a total of \$500, a new ornament will be placed on the tree. When we have reached our \$11,000 goal, we will add the bright yellow star to the top of the Christmas tree!

Consider donating \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000, or however much the spirit moves you. During this time of Christmas celebration, *please contribute until it feels good!*

Please place your gift in the envelope provided in your letter. If you prefer, you can scan the QR code located on the poster in the chapel. Or, you may use another envelope, as long as you kindly include your name and the notation “Stewardship Campaign.” Let's pull together in a BIG way to meet our goal by Dec 31!

*Submitted by Pam Kothrade*



Monthly Activity	November	YTD
Contributions	\$11,820	\$97,501
Other Income	\$299	\$80,484
Total Income	\$12,119	\$177,985
Expenses	\$30,845	\$199,435
Budgeted Amount	\$14,867	\$163,533

## Christ Church UCC

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**Website:** [uccmke.org](http://uccmke.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/christchurchbayview](https://facebook.com/christchurchbayview)

**Instagram:** [instagram.com/christ\\_church\\_uccmke/](https://instagram.com/christ_church_uccmke/)

**Livestream:** [youtube.com/@ChristChurchUCCBayViewWI](https://youtube.com/@ChristChurchUCCBayViewWI)

If you should need pastoral support, please contact

**Rev. Sandy Graham** at 414-943-6321 or [RevDrGraham@gmail.com](mailto:RevDrGraham@gmail.com)

or **Rev. John Helt** at 262-622-3165 or [JohnCliffordHelt@gmail.com](mailto:JohnCliffordHelt@gmail.com)

