



Weekly News

December 20, 2023

Issue #152

St. John's United Church of Christ is an inclusive congregation where God's love is felt by all, for all, and in all we do through worship, mission, and community.

CALENDAR

Thursday (12/21):	12-2PM	Food Pantry	Brombaugh Room
	7:00PM	Blue Christmas	Sanctuary
Sunday (12/24):	7:00PM	Worship	Sanctuary
Tuesday (12/26):	12-2PM	Food Pantry	Brombaugh Room

WORSHIP

Join us for in-person worship Sundays at 10:30AM.

Livestream worship is available on [St. John's YouTube channel](#)

<u>December 24</u> <i>Solemnity of Christmas / Communion</i>	<u>Pastor Mark Anthony</u>	<u>December 31</u> <i>First Sunday after Christmas / Epiphany</i>	<u>Pastor Mark Anthony</u>
Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2-7 / Galatians 4: 4-7 & Luke 2: 1-20		Scripture: Isaiah 60: 1-6 & Matthew 2: 1-12	
Sermon: A Seed Takes Root		Sermon: Light For The Nations	
Musical Offering: Gilead's Grace : Go Tell it on the Mountain/Midnight Clear (Love Song) Chancel Choir : Christ the Lord is Born		Musical Offering: TBA	
Liturgist: Carol Garner		Liturgist: Brenda Williams	
Godly Play: No Godly Play		Godly Play: Christmas—Meeting the Christ Child (p.143)	
Storyteller: No Godly Play		Storyteller: Erin	



POINSETTIAS'

<u>FROM</u>	<u>IN MEMORY (M)</u> <u>IN HONOR (H)</u>	#
Phil & Anne Ridenour	(M) Bob & Thelma Hiltbrand (M) Maurice & Barbara Ridenour (H) Our Families & Friends	2
Dick & Pat Schaeff	(H) Our Children and Grandchildren	2
Tom Weaver & Kathy Yohn	(M) Dave & Ollie Yohn (M) Bud & Alma Weaver (M) Kristine Yohn	1
Janet Hydeman	(M) Ann Sharp Hydeman	1
Paul and Dorris Hensley	(H) Our Family	1
Tim & Elaine Pottenger	(H) Our Children & Grandchildren	1
Roger & Jan Hornung	(M) Our Parents	1
Pat Kirchner	(M) Mary Ann Carrie (M) The Kirchner Family (H) The Finney Family	1
Rich & Mary Anne Miletic	(M) Matt Miletic	1
Judy Johnson	(M) Earl & Pearl Johnson (M) Don & Pearl Sayers	2
Decker Jones	(H) Chancel Choir (H) Bell Choir (H) Gilead's Grace (H) Youth Choir and Bells	4
Mark and Charlotte Williams	(H) Our Family	1
Jerry and Jackie Finney	(M) Our Parents (H) Our Family	



**'TIS THE SEASON TO
REMEMBER**

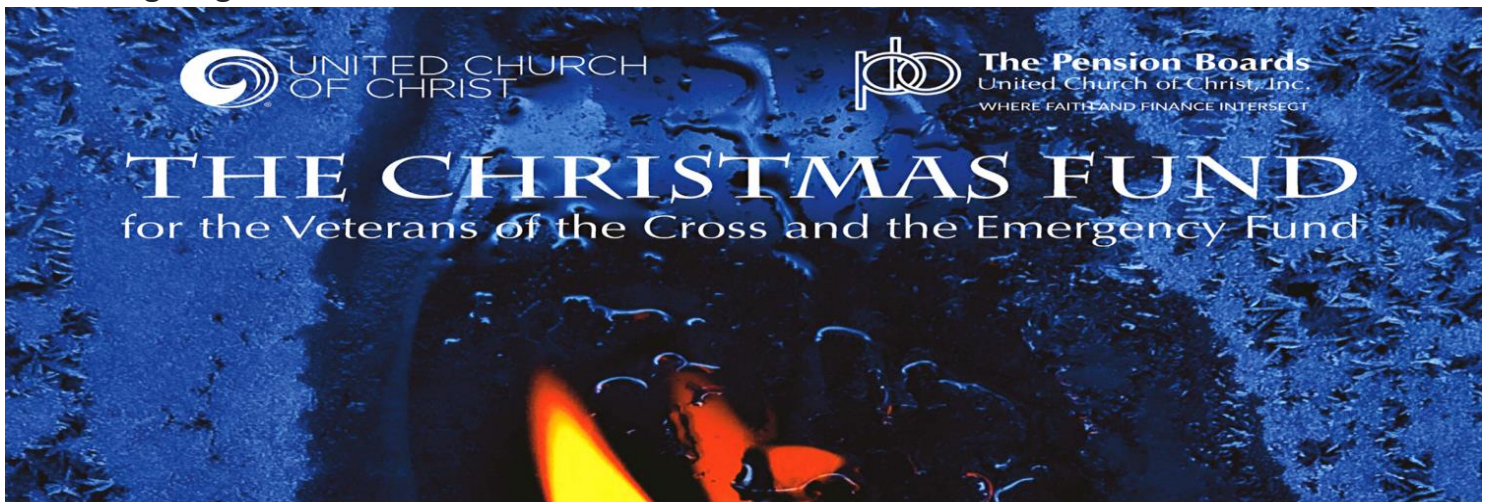
BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

We are introducing a Blue Christmas Service at St. John's this year. It will be held on **Thursday, December 21, 2023, which is the Winter Solstice, at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.** The Christmas holiday can be a time of stress and loneliness for many, so this time of prayer and meditation is offered for the expression of grief, pain, and heartbreak as well as an opportunity to focus on the promise of hope found in Christ. Anointing with Oil will be available for the strengthening of mind and body.



CHRISTMAS FUND

On Christmas Eve, an offering for the UCC Christmas Fund, formerly known as the Veterans of the Cross collection, will be taken. This offering has been received for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Envelopes for this collection are available at the entrances to the church. In support of so many who spent their lives in service to the church, please consider giving a donation.



AN UPDATE FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

St. John's UCC office and St. John's ELC will be closed on Monday, December 25th, 2023, and Tuesday, December 26th, 2023 in observance of Christmas. We will also be closed Monday, January 1st, 2024 for New Years Day. We wish you all a **VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR** from your St. John's Church Family!



FOR
UNTO US A
Child is born,
UNTO US A *Son*
is given; and the
the government will
be upon his shoulder, and his name
will be called
Wonderful Counselor
MIGHTY GOD
Everlasting Father
PRINCE OF PEACE.
ISAIAH
9:6
EMILYPULLEN.COM

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send all prayer requests via email (secretarystjohns937@gmail.com) or by calling the church. They will be shared in our Weekly News and during online worship. Please make sure you make note of whether request is for Pastor/Elders only or to be published/shared via internet. Prayer requests shared during online worship do not include last names for privacy purposes. If you have questions or want updates regarding anyone on our prayer lists, please contact the Church Office (937) 855-2050.

Ongoing Care Circle: Dick, Danita, Mary Anne, Elaine, Vickie, Mary Louise, Margaret, Barbara, Cheryl.

Members of the Armed Forces: Chad, Christina, Robert.

Cancer Survivors: Gerald, Jackie, Dorris, Paul, Judy, Sarah, Elaine, Rhonda, Twila.



CONTACTS

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