**St. John’s United Church of Christ**

201 West Market Street Germantown, OH 45327

**December 31, 2023, 10:30AM**

**First Sunday after Christmas**

*Liturgist: Brenda Williams Organist: Decker Jones Pastor: Mark Anthony*

**Announcements**

**Lighting of the Candles**

**Welcome**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prelude *Nations Shall Come* Louis-Claude Daquin**

**\*Call to Worship**

One: In the darkness, look to the light that cannot be overcome.

**Many: We turn to you, Jesus, Light of the World.**

One: In the chaos of this world, set course by the unwavering star.

**Many: We follow you, Jesus, our Constant Guide.**

One: In the painful disunity of our lives, embrace the unity of God’s love.

**Many: We abide in you, Jesus, Healer of our souls. Amen.**

**\*Hymn  *We Three Kings* Red No. 172**

**Verses 1-5**

**\*Opening Prayer**

Leader: Let us pray.

**People: God beyond our knowing, the boundaries we draw around**

**ourselves have no authority over you. Your love extends to all**

**nations and races, all genders, and religions. You call us to unity, not**

**division. Change our hearts, God of Mercy, to be more like you. Draw**

**us to the light of your grace, that we may be a source of healing in**

**our world. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**Musical Offering Video**

**Children’s Moment**

**Scripture Isaiah 60: 1-6 &**

**Matthew 2: 1-12**

**Message “Light For The Nations”**

**\*Hymn *As Grain on Scattered Hillsides* Brown No. 491**

**Verses 1 & 4**

**\*The Offering**

**\*Doxology**

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below, Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn *We’ve a Story to Tell the Nations* Brown No. 296**

**Verses 1 & 3**

**\*Dismissal with Blessing**

**Postlude *By No Means Least* Dorothy Wells**

***\*All join us in standing as able***

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Calendar of Events** | | | |
| Sunday (12/31): | 10:30AM  12:00PM | Worship  Bell Choir Practice | Sanctuary |
|  |  |  |  |
| Thursday (01/04): | 12 – 2PM  7:00PM | Food Pantry  Chancel Choir Practice | Brombaugh Rm |

**Staff:**

**Pastor: Rev. Mark Anthony** (937) 657-5347

Pastormanthony45327@gmail.com

**Emeritus: Rev. Mark L. Williams** (937) 696-7412

**Organist/**

**Music Director: Decker Jones** deckerjones@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Pat Schaeff

Financial Secretary: Barbara Craycraft *Office Hours 9AM-2PM M-F*

SecretaryStJohns937@gmail.com

**Worship Team:**

Liturgist: Brenda Williams

Greeter: TBA

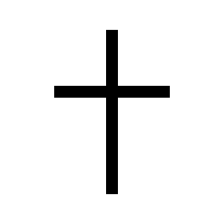
Godly Play Leader: Erin

Godly Play Lesson: Christmas – Meeting the Christ Child (p.143)

Tech: Kendall Peters, Rich Miletic, Nancy McDonnell, DJ Truax,

Grace Gregor, Tom Weaver

**December 31, 2023**



**201 West Market St.**

**Germantown, OH 45327**

**937-855-2050**