

***RESPONSE**

Emmanuel (See screens)
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us,
Revealed in us
His name is called Emmanuel.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet Your Governing Board Lunch and Discussion—Today, after service, stop at the hall table and sign up for the lunch and short discussion on **Jan. 19**. Find out what the board does to meet your needs in this church.

Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet for Jan. 12-May 31 is on the hall table. January and February need people to make coffee and bring goodies. See instructions posted on the wall in the hall above the coffee hour table. Note: There is no Coffee Hour on Jan. 19 because of the Governing Board lunch.

New Initiatives Group will meet **Tuesday, Jan. 7, 10-11 am** in Fellowship Hall. Anyone is welcome to attend. As we plan for the first part of the year, help us decide on timely activities for our church. One note: this group will be working on our church's involvement in the Fairlawn Hunger Walk May 3.

Jan. 7, AAIC Committee Meetings, 12-1:30, at Citizens Church, 647 E. Market St. (the former First Presbyterian Church). Come as a guest to see what AAIC will be planning for the year and to tour this new church. Lunch can be purchased at Compass Coffee located in the building. See Nancy W. if you wish to attend.

Acme Community Cashback Receipts are due. Please submit your receipts by next Sunday, so that the receipts can be submitted before the deadline.

Newsletter Submissions are due. Please submit your newsletter articles by next Tuesday, so the newsletter can go out the first full week of January.

Our **Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study** will resume January 8th at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. All are encouraged to attend.

Pastor
Tom Ulrich

Director of Music
Marlys Hershberger

Audio-Visual
Susie Stevenor

Liturgist
John Miller

Communion
Hal and Jackie Horton

Ushers
Barbara Clough, Tim Meyer,
Betty Miller, John Sezna

New Covenant Community Church

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NEW COVENANT
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Second Sunday of Christmas

Church Service 10:30 am

January 5, 2020

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Tom Ulrich

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

John Miller

Leader: As we greet a new day, let us assemble in God's sanctuary and praise the Lord.

People: As we behold the gifts of creation, let us seek God's wisdom.

Leader: As we awaken to another sunrise, may the grace of Jesus Christ inspire our actions.

People: As we welcome a new dawn, may the love of Jesus Christ embrace us with unity.

Leader: As we walk in the light, may God's word direct our steps.

People: As we greet a new year, may Jesus Christ be praised!

***HYMN**

What Star Is This With Beams So Bright

#68

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

John Miller

Leader: Although the Light of life has been born among us,
many of us often close our eyes to the wonders of God's grace.

We choose to live by fear rather than faith,
and we embrace the world's ways rather than God's wisdom.

So, trusting in God's mercy that enables us to begin anew,
let us now make our confession to God,

so that God will remove the dull sheen of what is wrong,
and allow the glory of God's light to shine upon us.

Let us pray together:

People: Merciful God, even when we temporarily forget the true meaning of Christmas, You always remember us. We confess that we quickly forget the simple and humble surroundings of Bethlehem when confronted with holiday sales and spending sprees. We acknowledge that while You have blessed us with a new year, we often remain imprisoned to old patterns. Forgive us, Lord, and redeem us from our sin. Fill us with the newness associated with the wonder and joy of the birth of Christ, so that with Christ-centered lives we may sing to You a new song that can be shared with all humanity, for we ask it in the name of the One who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Lord. (Silent)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (adapted from Hebrews 2:17-18)

John Miller

Leader: Christ has become like His brothers and sisters in every respect, so that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

People: Because Christ himself was tested, He is able to help those of us who are being tested.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***CANTICLE**

He Came Down —

(See screens)

He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love,
Hallelujah forevermore.
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace,
Hallelujah forevermore.
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy,
Hallelujah forevermore.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

John Miller

Leader: At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of the Prince of peace whose ministry reveals the way to life, love, forgiveness, and peace. Therefore, as we begin a new year and serve as His disciples, let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

MINUTE FOR MISSIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Tom Ulrich

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.

READING FROM THE WORD

Matthew 2:1-12

***HYMN**

Isn’t He

(See screens)

READING FROM THE WORD

Matthew 2:13-23

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

“The Flip Side of Christmas”

REFLECTIONS ON THE WORD

(Congregants are invited to share any thoughts and questions concerning today’s proclamation.)

***HYMN**

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

(See screens)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from *A Social Creed for the 21st Century*

**In faith, responding to our Creator,
we celebrate the full humanity of each woman, man, and child,
all created in the divine image as individuals of infinite worth.
In the love incarnate in Jesus, despite the world’s sufferings and evils,
we honor the deep connections within our human family
and seek to awaken a new spirit of community.
In hope sustained by the Holy Spirit, we pledge to be peacemakers in the world
and stewards of God’s good creation.**

* congregation standing (if able)

**We — individual Christians and churches — commit ourselves to a culture of peace and freedom
that embraces non-violence,
nurtures character,
treasures the environment,
and builds community,**

rooted in a spirituality of inner growth with outward action.

**We make this commitment together — as members of Christ’s body, led by the one Spirit —
trusting in the God who makes all things new.**

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

(See Screens)

Gratefully in adoration
we praise our dear Savior’s birth
whose divine illumination
shines God’s love through all the earth.
Here we share our gifts and talents
Worshiping the newborn King.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution and Communion of the People—Prayer after Communion

We have “open” communion, therefore all who desire a closer relationship with God and want to share in the love of Jesus Christ are invited to participate fully in the sacrament.

***HYMN**

Shine, Jesus, Shine

(See screens)

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: As we begin a new year, may God summon us to adventures of discipleship.

People: May God lead us beyond the boundaries of small expectations to the expansive horizons of God’s dreams.

Leader: Let us open our eyes to the vivid colors of new possibilities.

People: May God breathe new life into our souls and refresh us with the cup of living water.

Leader: May God inspire us to share the gifts of faith, hope, and love.

People: All that I am, and all that I have, I give to Christ and to His service.