

**BROWN COUNTY PRESBYTERIAN FELLOWSHIP
ORDER OF WORSHIP ON THE LORD'S DAY**

December 17, 2017

Celebrating Community

Greeting & Announcements

If you are visiting with us today, we are especially glad you are here! Please fill out one of the visitor cards and place it in the offering plate. Feel free to join us following the service for coffee and conversation if you would like.

Recognition of Birthdays & Anniversaries

Prelude and Lighting of the Candles

As you prepare your hearts for worship, welcome the presence of the Lord in this place.

Praising God

*Call to Worship

Leader: All creation holds its breath. The time is almost here.

People: The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

Leader: Excitement is all around us!

People: Prepare your hearts. The grace of God is about to take human form in Emmanuel.

Leader: We gather today to make ourselves ready...

People: Ready for the coming of the Christ, our hope!

*Hymn of Praise # 106
"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

*Invitation to Confession (cf. Isaiah 61)

The prophet tells us that God loves justice, and hates wrongdoing. Yet God also makes with us a covenant that He never breaks. If we acknowledge Him, he will forgive us and bless us. Confident in His promise, let us confess our sins to our faithful God...

*Prayer of Confession Congregation

We bow our heads in holy reverence toward you. / Faithful God, we long to be free of burdens that hold us captive. / We long to

be bearers of good news to the oppressed. / We long to return to your favor. / Forgive us our transgressions and loosen the chains of doubt that bind us. / Lord, hear our prayers...

Please observe a brief period of silence so that all may pray privately.

*Assurance of Pardon

You are forgiven! God loves you. God blesses you with new beginnings and new life. Put aside your old ways and become new! Never forget the gift of God's redeeming grace. **AMEN.**

The Children's Message

Following the children's message, all children are invited to attend Sunday School. They may join our teachers at the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

Hearing God's Word

Lighting the Advent Candle The Wolpert Family

The third candle in the Advent wreath represents JOY.

First Lesson Isaiah 61:1-11

The prophet proclaims the year of the Lord's favor.

Sermon Text John 1:6-8, 19-28

The author of John describes the ministry of John the Baptist.

Sermon Pastor Scott

"Waiting in the Darkness"

Hymn of Response # 132

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Responding in Faith

*Affirmation of Faith Congregation

Today we will recite together the Apostles Creed, which can be found on page 35 of the hymnal.

*Gloria Patri # 581

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings Pastor Scott

Welcome

Welcome to Brown County Presbyterian Fellowship for worship on this Lord's Day! We hope that our service this morning is a blessing in your life.

Announcements



Today we receive the annual **Christmas Joy Offering**. As one of the four annual special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the funds go to support the Board of Pensions and the colleges and seminaries of the denomination. Please use the offering envelopes provided in the pew racks.

Next Sunday we will not have morning worship services, but will have our traditional **Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols** at 11:00 p.m. Please bring your families and usher in Christmas Day in worship! No collection will be taken at this service, but Jane Gore will gladly receive your tithes and offerings privately.

Following worship this morning, Steve and Cathy Junken will host the annual **BCPF Christmas Party!** Their address is 10 Kelp Grove Road, Nashville. Please join us!

Please join us for **adult Sunday School** at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday. We have begun a new study in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We will learn about Martin Luther!

The **2017 Presbyterian Giving Catalog** is available in Fellowship Hall. It includes many opportunities to give in the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

If you need to **contact Pastor Scott**, please feel free to do so by calling one of the following numbers: 317-931-2347 office; or 317-701-0207 cell. His e-mail address is ssey@cts.edu.



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John the Baptist helped people prepare themselves for Jesus to come.

BY THE NUMBERS

Attendance last Sunday (Dec 10)	41
Offering last Sunday.....	\$ 1,313.00
Weekly needs to make the budget.....	\$ 1,938.17



2017 Christmas Poinsettias



Donor

In Honor or Memory of

Pete & Ginnvor Bullard	Anne Olsen
Jim and Mariann Hahn	Michael Ritchie & Allen Hahn
Romilda Hamontre	Bob Hamontre
Ann Johnson	My sister, Sue Mullis
John & Sandy Pavey	Our sons, Rod and John Greg and all other family members
Dolores Seay	Stella Hartley
Scott Seay	L. David Seay
Tim & Kathy Sparks	Our parents, Ben & Lee Sparks; Howard & Margaret Ross
Glenda Stogsdill-Johnson	Robert "Buck" Stogsdill and Dorey & Virginia Niswander
Diane Thompson	My parents and in-laws
Leona Tilton	Jill Barringer
Gerhard Weber	Lynda Sereno

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Today the Presbytery of Ohio Valley calls on us all to pray for **peace** in all of the places of our world where violence rages.

For **Stella Hartley**, who remains hospitalized in serious condition at Community North in the ICU. She and Carol expressed gratitude for the cards, calls, and other expressions of support during this difficult time.

Travel mercies for **Ruth Wert** as she goes to Virginia for Christmas and then Arizona and California for the winter.

John Pavey asked for prayers for **all those affected by the fires in California.**

For **Dave Wall**, who continues his recovery in Brown County Health and Living after recent surgery following a bad fall.

Tim Sparks had a **celebration for Kathy** - she won an award presented by the History Center for her volunteerism.

Leona Tilton thanked everyone for their donations to **God's Grace** - they recently gave away 23 coats to local boys and girls.

For the **Miller family**, who lost everything in a recent house fire.

Dick Peterson's article about God's Grace has been **published in The Presbyterian Outlook.**

For those with ongoing health issues: **Janice Cassiday; Orv Toler;** Diane's sister-in-law **Carolyn; Floyd Clouse; Jean Pienta, Big Jim Brydges, Marissa Fisher, Jay Cecerman, Gary Fox, Junior Cody,** and **Chet and Janice Kylander.**

About Our Church

Worship

10:00 a.m. each Sunday in the sanctuary

Communion is celebrated on the third Sunday of the month

Topical Studies for Adults

9:00 a.m. each Sunday in Fellowship Hall

Sunday School for Children

Children leave midway through the service for Sunday School

God's Grace Place

A clothing ministry that is open several days a month

"O come, let us adore him..."