

John 1:9-13 (CEB)

- ⁹ The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world.
- ¹⁰ The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light.
- ¹¹ The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him.
- ¹² But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children,
- ¹³ born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God.

Prelude

Patty

Gathering

Opening Hymn:

Dave

"My soul proclaims with wonder" (HWB #181)

Call to Worship and Prayer

Carol

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Craig & Ellen

Congregational Response:

May the light shine into the darkness of our hearts, and into the darkness of our world. May God's love make its home among us in Christ the Lord.

Advent Theme Song: "Unexpected and Mysterious"
Pass the Peace

Music Team

Praising God

Songs of Praise:

"Peace before us"

"Dona nobis pacem"

"I come let us adore him"

Children's Story

Amy

Offering* - with special music

Laura and Gabriella

Hearing God's Word

Scripture: John 1:9-13

Teresa

Sermon: "The Light in the World"

Pastor Joel Shenk

Responding

Hymn of Response: "'Twas in the moon of wintertime" (HWB #190)

Congregational Prayer

Sending

Announcements

Sending Song: "Joy to the world" (HWB #318)

Benediction

Baby's Nursery is at the back of sanctuary - unsupervised
Toddlers and Children's Play Room - Room 102 - Amy Bennett
Today's Sound Technician - Jason Hoag
Usher - Joel Nofziger

CALENDAR

Today - 10:45 am - Fellowship and refreshments in the fellowship hall.
All are welcome to stay.
No Sunday School Today

12/24 Christmas Eve Service - 5:30 pm
12/25 - 12/29 - Joel will not be in office.
Maureen will be in the office on Monday, Thursday, and Friday
1/9 Leadership Meeting - 7:00 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our **Christmas Eve service** this year will be a Lessons and Carols service. A series of six scripture readings will tell the Christmas story of Jesus' long-awaited birth. Following each reading will be a Christmas carol or two. The service will also include special music and a children's story.
Monday, December 24th at 5:30 pm.

This past Fall, the Leadership Team encouraged Pastor Joel to plan for another **sabbatical** according to the guidelines in our updated covenant of understanding. We are pleased to announce that Joel will be taking a sabbatical in the summer of 2019. Details are still being worked out. The vision for the sabbatical is "**Forging Disciples.**" The goal of the sabbatical is to provide time to reflect on the church's ministry to make disciples along side the ministry of RAW Tools to forge guns into garden tools. Please keep the preparation in prayer, and stay tuned for more details.

Prayers of Joy and Concerns

December 16, 2018

Michael Ann's family (Carl and Joanie) came to Toledo for a Christmas visit and to remember what would have been their father's birthday. She is thankful to Charlie and Sue Cook for bringing her to church each Sunday. We come to worship God and Jesus.

David and Ann share a joy. Seth and Christina found out this week that they will be having a little girl in April. Pray for a continued safe and uneventful pregnancy and delivery.

Pray for those experiencing depression and "overload." Pray for a family trying to help another family going through these difficult times.

Rosalee wants to thank all of you for the prayers for her. God is good, and everyone here is so special. Pray for Cathey Richmond, for Rosalee's twin brother, Roger, and Rosalee's sister, Jeannie.

Linda asks for traveling mercies as she, Mellissa and her son Casen, and Mellissa's friend Ashley, travel to Tennessee today. Mellissa will appear in court to clear her name and seek a divorce from her abusive husband. Also, pray for Linda's sister, Jan, and brother-in-law, Mark. Mark is having surgery this week. Today is the second anniversary of the death of Linda's husband, Ernie.

Happy Birthday

Today - James
Today - Sarah
Thursday - Spencer
Thursday - Glada
Thursday - Randy
Friday - Rosalee