

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Bausman Memorial United Church of Christ

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



1064 Penn Avenue, Wyomissing, PA 19610

office@bausmanucc.org | 610-375-9790 | bausmanucc.org

www.facebook.com/bausmanucc

December 14, 2025

9:30am Worship

WELCOME TO BAUSMAN!

1ST TIME GUESTS: Most everything you need is found in this bulletin. Plus, those around you are glad to help and an usher is always available at the main rear entrance. If there are ways we can better extend God's hospitality, leave us a note on the Welcome Card. Your insights are essential as we continue to grow into the community God is calling us to be. Thank you!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Congregational readings are in bold with an *All*, *People*, or *Unison* designation. Songs are in the bulletin or pew hymnal. Times for standing and sitting are listed, with it always being okay to remain seated.

"BUSY BAGS": Coloring books and crayons are available in the north narthex (lobby) for use during worship. Please return all items following the service for others to use the following week. See an usher for assistance.

NURSERY CARE: Available during worship for children birth-kindergarten. The nursery is past the office, to the right. See an usher for assistance.

RESTROOMS: Ladies and a unisex/accessible bathroom (with wall mounted baby changing table) are available through the doors at the front of the sanctuary. Follow the signs to the office. Bathrooms are on the left.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS: Contain printed scripture and music, in addition to being in a larger font. Ask an usher for a copy.

HEARING ASSISTANCE: Ask an usher at the rear entrance to the sanctuary who will provide you with a device directly tied into the sanctuary sound system. Please return the device to an usher at the conclusion of worship.

GET CONNECTED: Use the pew holder Welcome Card to register your attendance, share contact information, ask questions, and more. Once completed, place it in the offering plates during the offering time.

WIFI & DEVICES: Thank you for silencing all your devices during worship. Bausman's guest wifi is accessible with the passcode: "gladurhere!"

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WE GATHER TO BE GOD'S PEOPLE

Centering Thoughts: At the heart of God's joy is a deep and abiding care for those who are most vulnerable in our world. As such, God's joy challenges us to evaluate what we believe, and what we strive for, in seeking to experience heart sustaining joy. No wonder Jesus makes the statement in Matthew 11 "blessed is anyone who takes no offense in me." Because, to follow Jesus in his joy is to turn the world, and our lives, on its head.

Opening Chimes

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing of Christ's Peace

(Rise in body or spirit to share Christ's peace using customary forms of greeting or by using a peace sign. Please be seated once the prelude begins.)

Prelude: "A Little Child Shall Lead Them" - Lani Smith

(The acolyte carries the light of Christ into our presence, calling us to worship)

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

People: Our souls magnify the Lord

and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

Liturgist: God looks with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

People: God's mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

Liturgist: God scatters the proud, brings down the powerful, lifting up the lowly.

**People: God fills the hungry, sends the rich away empty, helps his servant,
fulfilling his promises in mercy.**

Liturgist: Men and women, young and old,

lift up their eyes to see the coming of God

People: With joy we wait and watch for the coming of our Lord.

Liturgist: For God's joy gives of life and proclaims of abundance,

as it sets us, and this world, free to the kingdom that is to be.

People: O come, O come Emmanuel!

Liturgist: As God has come in Jesus, so God will come again,
in the fullness of time, wiping away every tear,
as we, and all things, are made new.

People: Our joy is the Lord our God, the creator of heaven and earth.

Liturgist: As we light this third candle of Advent,
may it proclaim the truth of the God who comes,
casting out all darkness, filling our hearts with joy
of the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

(Lighting of the Candle of Joy)

Liturgist: Together, let us pray.

**All: Saving God, as we deepen our journey to your advent,
in the coming of our Savior,
renew your joy within us, that we may see beyond the darkness
as you call us, here and now, to live by the light of your joy
that has, and continues, to shine
through the abiding presence of your Spirit.
Awaken us from our slumber, that we may live anew in your joy.
Come, Lord Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

(Please rise in body or spirit)

Processional Hymn: “Angels From the Realms of Glory” (p. #126)

WE CONFESS OUR NEED FOR HEALING & GRACE

Call to Confession

Corporate Confessional

**All: Holy God you declare joy is known in setting the prisoners free,
opening the eyes of the blind,
and lifting up those who are bowed down.
You declare joy is found in caring for the stranger and the immigrant,
and upholding the orphan and the widow.
Forgive us for the fetters that bind us, the sight that blinds us,
and pride that keeps us from seeking the depth of your joy.
Forgive us for the fears that cause us to push others away,**

and the apathy that turns us from the vulnerable and needy.
Lead us from the wickedness that brings ruin,
to the righteousness that leads us to you.
Come Lord Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Personal Silent Confession

(Personal prayers for God's healing and redeeming peace)

Assurance of Grace

Pastor: ...Blessed is anyone who takes no offense in him
and the joy filled salvation he proclaims to all the world.

People: **In Christ we are healed. In Christ we are saved. Thanks be to God!**
Amen.

Confession Response *(Unison)*

The musical score is written for a unison response in 6/8 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics in Spanish and English. The Spanish lyrics are: '¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!'. The English lyrics are: 'Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est, Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra-a-que-llos que a - ma Dios. . . . And on earth be peace to all peo-ple with whom God is pleased.' The score includes four measures, each with a chord symbol above the treble staff: C7, F, C, and F. The final measure of the English lyrics is marked with a double bar line and repeat dots.

(Please be seated)

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S LIVING WORD

Prayer of Illumination

All: Almighty God, you open the eyes of the blind,
you pierce the darkness with light, you set the prisoners free.
In the proclaiming and the receiving of your word
open now our eyes to see, enlighten our hearts to know,

**that we too may be set free to the joy of your truth.
Speak Lord, for your servants are listening. Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10 (p. #663)

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:2-15 (p. #11)

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A

prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: “‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Children’s Christmas Pageant – “Santa Discovers the First Christmas”

WE RESPOND TO GOD

(Please rise in body or spirit)

UCC Statement of Faith as Doxology

All: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,

**God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify.**

You call the worlds into being,

**create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the Church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

You call us into your church

**to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service to others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil,**

to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.
You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (sins)

All: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

*(Electronic & physical giving options are available through the pew envelope.
Register your attendance with a Welcome Card or using Realm's mobile check-in.)*

Offertory: "Away in a Manger" - Arr. By Gilbert M. Martin

(Please rise in body or spirit)

Offering Response (Unison)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here be-low;



Prayer of Dedication

All: Saving God, we give ourselves in service to you
as we await Christ's coming.

Bless all that we offer
that your church may shine the light of your peace,
provide the refuge of your care,
and witness to the good news
that you have made known to all the world
through the precious gift of your Son.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WE GO WITH GOD'S CALLING

Recessional Hymn: "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" (p. #143)

(The acolyte carries the light of Christ into the world, as the choir leads us in the way.)

Commissioning & Benediction

Chimes

Postlude: "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" - Arr. By Barbara Owen

(As the postlude concludes, go in peace to love and serve at the calling of God.)

THIS WEEK AT BAUSMAN

Sunday, December 14 – Third Sunday of Advent, Children's Christmas Pageant

- 8:30 AM Chancel Choir
- 9:30 AM Worship, Nursery
- 4:00 PM Brownie Troop 1159 – Room 23
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 413 – Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 15

- 9:00 AM Exercise Group – Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 AM Turning Point Group, AA – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 16

- 6:30 PM Consistory – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 17

- 8:30 AM Exercise Group – Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 AM Turning Point Group, AA – Fellowship Hall
- 5:00 PM Family Promise Fundraiser – Fellowship Hall
- 8:00 PM Fundraising - Zoom

Thursday, December 18

- 10:30 AM Women's Recovery Group, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 PM Bell Choir, Sanctuary
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir, Sanctuary

Friday, December 19

- 11:30 AM Turning Point Group, AA – Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 20

- 12:00 PM Private Event – Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent, Installation of Consistory

- 8:30 AM Chancel Choir
- 9:30 AM Worship, Sunday School, Nursery

PRAYERS & CARES

Congregational Cards of Care

God invites us to share life-giving love through our faith. One way to do this is to weekly join in our “Cards of Care” ministry. This week we are uplifting Carolyn Hildebrand, who is one of our Home Congregants. Stop by the table in the front left corner of the sanctuary to add your name and care to this week’s card. Thank you!

Prayer Requests

Thank you for joining in the joy and care of others by including the following prayers in your prayer times. Submit your prayer requests by using a Prayer Card, contacting the church office, or the prayer chain coordinator (Mary Moll). Prayer requests are maintained for up to four weeks and can be resubmitted an unlimited number of times. When possible, please check with the person before submitting their name.

Healing & Strengthening: Virginia Buser; Jerry Henry; Jan Heist; Andrew Wolfe
(National Guardsman); Movin Crasto; Lorraine Yahner

Care & Support: St. John's (Hain's) UCC and Pastor Mark Johnson; Randy Ulmer; Tracey Rohrbach; Christians in Nigeria; Jean Wall & Family

Comfort In Time of Loss: The Family of Sarah Beckstrom (National Guardsman)

Birthdays Celebrated this Week

12/14 Sam Brown

12/17 Leslie Bell

Sharon Gery

Jane Bitner

Ryan Stone

12/19 Mary L. Moll

Chris Blickley

12/21 Maria Colon

Worship Information

Sponsorships

Bulletins: In memory of husband James Mengle, by Sandra Mengle.

Today's Worship Leaders

Ministers: All Members

Head Usher: Nevin Hollinger

Ushers: Bruce Longenecker, Mary Moll,
Kathy Errich, Tom Reardon

Acolyte: TBD

Reader: Bibba McKemy

Welcome: Cece Wagner

Advent Liturgist: Ryan, Emma, Joshua, and
Reagan Stone

Minister of Music: Sharon Luyben

Preacher: Rev. Joseph Motz

Nursery: Amalia Cannon

Altar Guild: Margie Baer

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Last Week's Worship

Worship Attendance: In Person: 89

Online: 8

Offerings Received for God's Ministry:

General Fund: In person \$5292.24 Online: \$1094.50

2026 Pledge Total:\$246,812

**“LOOK AND SEE”
WHAT IS HAPPENING AT BAUSMAN!
DECEMBER 14, 2025**

(Visit bausmanucc.org and sign up for the weekly e-blasts as well)

Christmas Fund - December 7 – 21 - Formerly known as Veterans of the Cross, The Christmas Fund is a special PSEC collection to be taken for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to lower-income retirees. Special purple envelopes are available in the sanctuary or you can donate online to the Christmas Fund: Veterans of the Cross.

2026 Offering Envelopes - Envelopes for 2026 are available in the East Narthex for pickup. Please pick yours up by the end of December to minimize the number of offering envelopes that need to be mailed. You are also welcome to assist friends, family members and neighbors by picking up and delivering their envelopes to them. If you can’t find your offering envelope please contact the church office.

Poinsettia Sale – Final poinsettia order forms are due today with delivery on December 24 (Christmas Eve). These will be used to decorate the sanctuary and can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service or left in the sanctuary to be delivered to our sick and shut-in members. Penny Hill Farm provide the poinsettias, and they are \$11 each and are available in 4 colors. Orders & payment can be given to Lori Moser, Bonnie Shiner or drop form off in the offering plate.

In Recognition of Pastor Joe’s 20th Anniversary of his Ordination - On Sunday November 23, 2025, we celebrated Pastor Joe’s 20th anniversary of his ordination. From now till Dec17 there will be a card and extra paper on the Bell table in the sanctuary if you would like to leave him a note. We are also collecting money to be donated To Camp Lutherlyn in Pastor Joe’s name. This camp is a very important place to him, and we felt it would be a nice way to honor his 20th year. There is an envelope with the card etc. on the Bell table for these donations.

Advent Daily Devotionals – Pastor Joe, along with several of his colleagues, co-authored an Advent Daily Devotional booklet. They created this Advent-at-Home kit to help and encourage you to experience the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of this season every day. You are invited to read the devotionals included in this booklet through Christmas Day. These free booklets have been printed and are available on the table at the front of the sanctuary. You can also access this booklet digitally if you receive the weekly Eblast.

Christmas Eve Pre-service Recital Performers - Wednesday, December 24, 2025 - Are you interested in performing for our Pre-Service Recital on Christmas Eve? We are looking for singers, instrumentalists, soloists, or small groups (of all ages) to perform before our Christmas Eve Service. Please contact Sharon Luyben @ 610-334-6479 if you are interested in singing or playing an instrument! Pre-service Recital begins at 6 PM / Christmas Eve Worship begins at 6:30 PM

Christmas Eve Offering - This year's Christmas Eve offering, unless designated otherwise, will go to the SOAR General Mission Fund. The SOAR (Service Outreach and Renewal) committee is Bausman's mission committee, reflecting our faith through compassionate action. SOAR helps support several local nonprofits and provides opportunities for members to become involved in demonstrating Christ's love through service to the community. Bausman currently supports 14 local ministries who in turn provide services to over 163,000 needy residents of Berks and surrounding counties and has never had a general designated offering. For those of you with giving envelopes, you will have a designated Christmas Eve offering envelope. For those wishing to donate online, there will be an option for SOAR: General Mission. All other undesignated offering collected at this service will go to the SOAR General Mission Fund.

End of Year Giving - For tax purposes, offerings postmarked in 2025, or received in 2025, will be included on your 2025 giving statement. All offerings postmarked 2026, or received in the offering plate in 2026, will be recorded on your 2026 giving statement.

The one exception is if you used a 2026 offering envelope. All 2026 offering envelope contributions are held and counted as 2026 offerings. If you would like to make a contribution in 2025 towards your 2026 pledge, please contact the Financial Secretary, Cece Wagner, to ensure your contribution is accounted for accurately.

Clothing Collection for Hope Rescue and Lighthouse - In January, Bausman will collect all season clothing for both HOPE RESCUE and LIGHTHOUSE. Please bring items to church where drop boxes will be set up in the East Narthex. Items are coats, hats, scarves, gloves, shoes, towels, belts, purses and new men's underwear size s to XXXL

In Case of Worship Cancellation Due to Inclement Weather - In the case there is a need to cancel worship due to poor weather conditions, cancellation information will be posted on the following platforms:


- The church answering machine message
- Email sent out through Realm and Posted on the Newsfeed
- Facebook - [Bausman's Facebook](#) page
- WFMZ.com - Under [Business and School Closings](#)

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



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James Montgomery, 1816; alt.

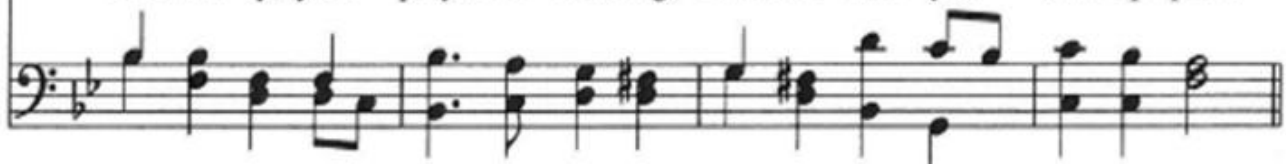
Luke 2:8-20; Matt. 2:1-2, 9-11




1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend-ing, watch-ing long in hope and fear,




As you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro-claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid-ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:
Seek the great De - sire of Na-tions, guid - ed by Christ's na - tal star:
Sud-den - ly, your prayers at - tend-ing, Christ be - side you shall ap - pear.



Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, give thanks and sing.



James Montgomery, English journalist, raised a strong voice against injustice in his newspaper *Sheffield Iris*, in which this hymn was first printed on December 24, 1816. The tune is named for Regent Square Church in London, today a congregation of the United Reformed Church in England and Wales.

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry T. Smart, 1867

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

143

Traditional English carol

Luke 2:8-14; John 1:1-5, 14; Acts 13:38-39

1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing, to hear the news the
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re - deem - er
 3 From out of mys - tery came the Light, which made the an - gels

an - gels bring; On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to
 made us glad; Then why should we on earth be sad, since
 sing this night; From out of mys - tery came the Light, which

hear the news the an - gels bring— News of great
 our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our
 made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to

joy, news of great mirth, news of our gra - cious Rul - er's birth.
 sin Christ set us free, all for to gain our lib - er - ty.
 God and peace to all, for - ev - er - more, Al - le - lu - ia!"

The Puritan era in England sent the medieval carols underground. Many were not rediscovered until the early twentieth century when Ralph Vaughan Williams, Cecil Sharp,

Tune: SUSSEX CAROL 8.8.8.8.8.8.
 English traditional melody
 Harm. Jonathan McNair, 1993