

ADVENT

they shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means, "God is with us"

*-Matthew 1: 23*



**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

*Prayer candles are available at the communion rail  
Financial gifts may be made in the wooden offering boxes  
Please silence your electronic devices*

**THE GATHERING & CARILLON PRELUDE**

**THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*Savior of the Nations, Come* JS Bach  
Text & Tune at UMH# 214

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**THE ENTRANCE HYMN\*** UMH #196  
*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION\***

O Holy God of Promise,  
we so often place our trust in the things  
we can see and touch and easily  
believe.  
But you did not ask us to believe what is  
easy;  
you have asked us to believe what is  
true!  
Forgive us, Holy One,  
when we doubt the ways you work.  
Forgive us when we find it hard to  
believe an ancient story.  
Forgive us when we question how you  
chose to enter the world,  
born as one of us.  
Forgive our lack of faith and belief in  
ways which seem so impossible to  
believe.  
Help us to look in faith, open our belief,  
and set aside our doubts that you sent  
your Son, born of a virgin -  
the one who has come to set us all free.  
We offer these prayers in the name of  
your Son,  
Emmanuel, God with us. AMEN.

**THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON\***

*Pastor*  
Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were  
yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In  
the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**AMEN.**

**THE ADVENT RESPONSE\*** UMH #206  
*Refrain of I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

**THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE  
& THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**  
Isaiah 7: 10 - 16

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**  
*Leader*  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

**THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC** Christopher Dazey  
*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**THE THANKSGIVING & DOXOLOGY\***  
UMH #219 (verse 3)

**THE GOSPEL LESSON**  
Matthew 1: 18 - 25

**THE MESSAGE** The Reverend Don Ackerman  
*God With Us, Still*

**THE CLOSING HYMN\*** UMH #202  
*People, Look East*

*cont.*

## THE BENEDICTION\*

## THE POSTLUDE

*People, Look East*

Martin Ellis

\* - Please stand as you are able  
UMH - The United Methodist Hymnal

## PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

The Reverend Don Ackerman  
*Pastor*

Amy Rivers  
*Liturgist*

Julie Smith  
*Director of Children's Ministries*

**The Crossroads Handbell Choir**  
Karen Zotta, *Director*

Beth Polen, *Flautist*

Christopher Dazey  
*Organist, Pianist & Carillonneur*

## Fellowship

Please stay after the service  
for conversation, coffee and cookies  
in the rear of the sanctuary!

## Crossroads Community Action Meeting TODAY

11:15 am  
Conference Room

## Men's Prayer Breakfast

Prayer breakfast is not meeting for the rest of 2025!  
See you again on Wednesday, January 7, 2026

**SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL NEWSLETTER**  
*The Crossroads Chronicle Weekly*

[cantonforallpeople.org/email](http://cantonforallpeople.org/email)

Happy  
Birthday

12/21 - Ruth Rice  
12/22 - Nancy Newhouse,  
Nancy Pierson, Wilbur Klotz  
12/28 - Karen Zotta,  
Steve Shoop

## CHRISTMAS EVE

**THIS Wednesday, December 24**

Our traditional candlelight service at 5:00 pm  
Featuring the Camarada Brass  
along with our Christmas Festival Choir  
*Music begins at 4:30 pm*



*One Body, One Spirit*

**A COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE**  
December 28th at 10:30 a.m.  
Christ Presbyterian Church  
530 Tuscarawas St. West, Canton, OH 44702

The Downtown Canton Churches  
& the Presbyterian Stark County Parish  
join as one Christian community to celebrate  
the enduring hope of the Christmas season.  
The entire offering will benefit the Akron-Canton Food Bank.

## No Service at Crossroads Next Week!

We will not meet in the sanctuary for worship  
next Sunday, December 28!  
Instead, we will participate in the  
combined downtown churches worship service  
at Christ Presbyterian

**Service - 10:30 am**  
**Combined Choir Rehearsal - 9:30 am**

## CELEBRATE

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD  
& A NEW MINISTRY

Welcome Mary Jo Yeakel  
Sunday, January 11, 2026 - 10:00 am



CANTON OHIO  
**CROSSROADS**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

120 Cleveland Ave SW, Canton, OH 44702

To help keep our sacred space clean, at the conclusion of the service,  
please return this bulletin to one of the wooden tables located throughout the sanctuary

**CROSSROADS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
120 Cleveland Ave SW • Canton, OH, 44702 • 330-455-0153 • [cantonforallpeople.org](http://cantonforallpeople.org)