

**Christmas Gifts: To your enemy, forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to a child, a good example; To all, charity; to yourself, respect.**

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**Gold Hymnal**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PRELUDE                   *"Nothing More"*                   Emily Miller

**\*CANDLE LITURGY**

One: We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations or our memories push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Let us open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has planted it in us. All we need to do is share it.

**All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, believing that you made us and fill our hearts and lives with joy. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with a joy that we must share. Transform our hearts that we may walk in the light of Christ. AMEN.**

**\*HYMN            *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*.....no. 178**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**+PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving Lord, Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. We have been lukewarm disciples. We have lacked the zeal of John the Baptist. Instead of letting our voices be heard our cries have been weak and halfhearted. Instead of proclaiming the gospel with conviction, we have shrugged and stammered. Instead of clothing ourselves in humility and faith, we have put on power and prestige. Instead of giving you the glory, we have puffed ourselves up with pride. Forgive us, O God. Transform us for authentic and wholehearted discipleship. In Jesus' name. AMEN.**

**+SILENT PRAYER**

*(please use this time to confess your own personal sin)*

**+KYRIE**

**+ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Isaiah proclaimed the Good News of our God – Our sins have been forgiven and new life is ours!

**People: All thanks and praise we give to the Christ Child of Bethlehem. AMEN!**

**\*GLORIA PATRI.....no. 142**

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S MESSAGE**

OLD TESTAMENT                   Isaiah 61:1-4                   pg. 603

CHOIR ANTHEM                   *"A Little Light Was Born"*

GOSPEL LESSON                   John 1:6-18                   pg. 862

**MESSAGE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**\*THE CREED.....inside front cover of hymnal**

**\*HYMN                    *"Away in a Manger"* ..... no. 185**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY           *"Pat-A-Pan"*

**\*OFFERING RESPONSE/THE DOXOLOGY.....no. 382**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**\*BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

**\*HYMN                    *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*.....no. 194**

Let There Be Peace on Earth   Gold Hymnal no. 681

CHIMES, QUIET MEDITATION   (Congregation seated)

POSTLUDE                   *"Caroling, Caroling"*

(those who are able please \*- stand, +-kneel)

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Treasurer ([treasurer@peaceunitedchurch.org](mailto:treasurer@peaceunitedchurch.org)).....Michael Madara

Altar Guild Workers.....Edie Graff and Dixie Schweitzer

Greeters.....Rosie Johnston and Tyler Hertzog

Head Usher.....Chris Fitterling

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The Altar flowers are given in memory of Candice Parker by Ron and Carol Parker.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

*Let us also pray for those whose needs remain silent.*

Doris Fultz	Kathy Schlegel	Jerry Barnicle
Ann Englert	Bobbie Porter-Kunkel	Mel Gerhart
Margaret Robinson	Helen Martzall	Scott Leshar

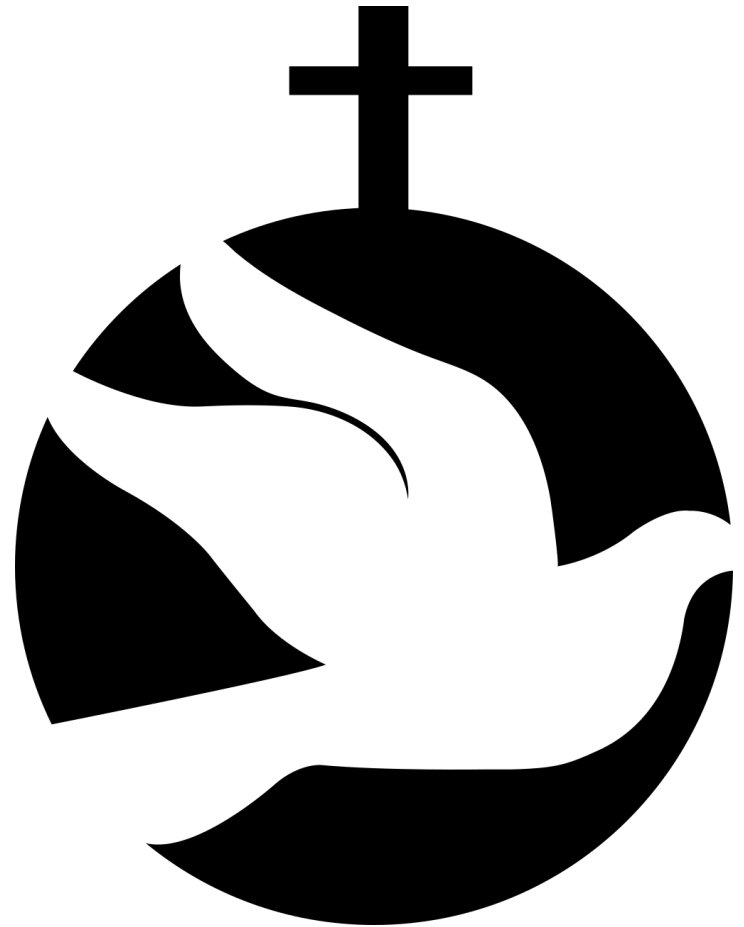
## COMING EVENTS

There will be no Bible Study on December 19 and 26.  
Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – Bell Choir Rehearsal – 7:00 pm  
Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> – Choir Rehearsal – 7:00 pm  
Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – There will be no Early Service and no  
Sunday School. Our Traditional Service will be at 10:30.  
Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Marketing Committee – 7:00 pm  
Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – Installation of New Council Members  
Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> – Abigail Butz Memorial Spaghetti Dinner –  
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany Communion

## ADVENT HAPPENINGS

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – Evening Christmas Musical Program and  
Dinner – 5:00 pm  
Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday of Advent – 10:30 am  
Service only  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7:30 pm

# Peace United Church of Christ



December 17, 2017  
Third Sunday of Advent