

Welcome to

*Shenendehowa United Methodist Church*  
*Traditional Sunday Worship Service*



FIRST SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

***November 27, 2022***

***9:00 am***

Shenendehowa United Methodist Church  
*Connecting People to Christ and Community*

***We're Glad You've Joined Us!***

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*Shenendehowa United Methodist Church*  
*Traditional Worship Service*

November 20, 2022

9:00 am

PRELUDE

"What Child Is This"  
*Jayne Dozois, piano*

arr. D. Lanz

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*David Fifield*

One: We come to prepare the way:

**All: The way of Christ, the hope of Christ, and the peace of Christ,**

One: To enter our world and our hearts.

**All: We cry out together in the wilderness:**

One: The kingdom of heaven has come near.

**All: We come to be part of the light, the light that shines in the darkness. Let us worship the True Light!**

**\*OPENING HYMN #196**

**"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

ADVENT READING & CANDLE LIGHTING

*The Niemeyer Family*

ANTHEM

"We Gather Together"  
*Chuck Oakes*

Traditional

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER  
*Deaconess Denise Walling*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

SHARING OUR GIFTS

*Pastor Lee Carlson*

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"The Midnight Rose"  
**Chancel Choir**  
*Lauri Nair, director; Jayne Dozois, organ*

arr. Nix/Cooley

**\*DOXOLOGY #95**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER** *(in unison)*

*Tiffany Lewis*

Holy God of new beginnings, as we share our tithes and offerings with you, we are filled with hope. We enter the season of Advent with expectation; we have left behind us a time of fear, isolation, and uncertainty; and we raise our heads because we know our redemption is coming near. May our gifts be dedicated to help heal the brokenness of our world and to welcome our Messiah into the world once again. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

INVITATION TO PASS THE PEACE

**\*HYMN # 240**

**“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”**

SCRIPTURE READING

Malachi 3:1a & Luke 1:5-17

Liturgist: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Prepare the Way for the Lord: “The Annunciation”

*Pastor Lee Carlson*

**\*CLOSING HYMN #211**

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

\*BENEDICTION

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #204**

**“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”**

POSTLUDE

“The King of Glory Comes”

Israeli folk song

\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

*Thank you for joining us for worship – see you next week!*

*Prayers may be sent to [prayerrequest@shenumc.org](mailto:prayerrequest@shenumc.org)*

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**Prepare the Way for the Lord**  
***The Annunciation: "God Has Heard Your Prayers***  
**Malachi 3:1a & Luke 1:5-17**

***"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me."*** Malachi 3:1a

**1. Advent**

- a. Advent is a Christian season of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - i. Today, most Christian churches see Advent as preparation for celebrating the first coming of Jesus.
    - ⇒ The candles most often represent \_\_\_\_\_, peace, love, and joy.
    - ⇒ The medieval church (500 AD-1500 AD) saw it as preparation for Christ's second coming—to engage in fasting and penitence in anticipation that the one who came in the manger would be coming again in glory to \_\_\_\_\_ the living and the dead.
    - ⇒ The candles most often represented \_\_\_\_\_, judgement, heaven, and hell.
- b. The season of Advent in the Christian calendar anticipates the *"coming of Christ"* from three perspectives:
  - i. The \_\_\_\_\_ birth of Jesus in Bethlehem—The First Coming of Christ.
  - ii. The reception of Christ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the believer.
  - iii. The \_\_\_\_\_ Coming of Christ.
- c. *Adventus* (ad'ven.tus): (*Latin*) meaning coming, \_\_\_\_\_ of a king or emperor
  - ⇒ A \_\_\_\_\_ was sent ahead to prepare the way for their arrival.
  - ⇒ The early Christians recognized that John the Baptist fulfilled this role for \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. Because he came to prepare the way for the Lord, John the Baptist is a \_\_\_\_\_ figure for us to explore during Advent.
- e. John the Baptist is mentioned in all \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospels.

**2. Movement 1: The Annunciation to Zechariah.**

- a. Elizabeth and Zechariah were old at this point and were unable to have a child. It's likely they longed and \_\_\_\_\_ for a child for decades.
- b. Their community likely saw their infertility as a lack of God's favor or even as a sign of \_\_\_\_\_.

***"Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord."*** Luke 1:6

- c. Zechariah's choice to offer incense that day was likely a once-in-a-lifetime experience and the exact moment the angel Gabriel showed up with a big \_\_\_\_\_.

**3. Movement 2: "Your Prayers Have Been Heard."**

***"...the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayers have been heard."*** Luke 1:13

- a. *"Your prayers have been heard"* implies they have prayed for a child for a long time.
- b. Prayer does not work as if God is a \_\_\_\_\_ in a bottle, ready to grant our wishes if we ask the right way.
  - i. Sometimes God does answer prayers with a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ii. Most often God answers our prayers with God's very presence, promising to be with us and walk with us through \_\_\_\_\_ times.

4. Movement 3: God Chooses the Very Old.

*"But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old."*

Luke 1:7

- a. Despite their old age, or perhaps \_\_\_\_\_ of it, God chose Elizabeth and Zechariah as the ones to be parents to John the Baptist.
- b. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God choosing older people occurs frequently throughout scripture.
- c. Older adults are a tremendous \_\_\_\_\_ to the church and God calls them to serve.
- d. We never \_\_\_\_\_ from the work God calls us to and, in whatever stage of life we find ourselves, God is seeking to use us.

5. Movement 4: A People Prepared for the Lord.

*"...for he (John) will be great in the sight of the Lord...even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."* Luke 1:15-17

*"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. 6 He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse."* Malachi 4:5-6

*A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."* Isaiah 40:3

- a. Preparing for the Lord: Turning our hearts and \_\_\_\_\_ back to God and turning toward one another in love and care.
- b. Are you ready to take this \_\_\_\_\_ through Advent?
- c. I invite you into a time of \_\_\_\_\_, of making your hearts and lives ready for Christ.
- d. I invite you to turn to God and to turn to your neighbors, ready to share God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. Who do you need to invite on this journey with you? \_\_\_\_\_

# What's Happening

## New Small Group Series for Advent

If you've never been part of a small group, now is a great time to join for the upcoming 4-week series, "Prepare the Way for the Lord." The story of John the Baptist, or John the Baptizer, is woven into all of the gospel accounts and is essential in our understanding of the Advent/Christmas story of Jesus' coming to us as a life-saving gift.

During the four weeks of Advent, beginning November 27, Pastor Lee will be presenting sermons surrounding the themes of answered prayer, doubts, transformation, and shining God's light in a world that seems dark. The small groups will share Scripture and discussion around those themes, pray together, and just have fun.

Small groups accepting new members are offered Sunday afternoons at 4:30 pm, Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am, and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. For more information, please contact Denise Walling [dwalling@shenumc.org](mailto:dwalling@shenumc.org).



- ❖ Ladies' Breakfast will meet on December 1 at 8 am at the Halfmoon Diner. Email Patty Willis [pattywillis@gmail.com](mailto:pattywillis@gmail.com) by Tuesday if you would like to attend.
- ❖ We are looking for families/friends to participate in one of our services during the 4 weeks of Advent by reading & lighting the Advent candles. We need volunteers for both the 9 and 11 am services. Contact Shelley [secretary@shenumc.org](mailto:secretary@shenumc.org) or (518) 371-7964 for more details!

## CAPTAIN'S Christmas Adopt-A-Family Project

ShenUMC family and friends will once again have the opportunity to provide Christmas gifts for children identified by CAPTAIN. The Adopt-A-Family project will begin in mid-November. You may sign up during Coffee Hour or through the Sign-Up Genius link that came via the Weekly Connect on Friday. In addition to purchased gifts, monetary donations will also be accepted. All **unwrapped** gifts must be returned to the church in early December. More details to follow.

The Christmas Adopt-A-Family project is being coordinated for ShenUMC by Rick and Laurie Schellinger. Call Laurie at 518-383-3704 or email her at [lhschell@aol.com](mailto:lhschell@aol.com) if you have questions.

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## College Connection Christmas Cookie Care Packages

We will be sending out care packages to our college students in December to help cheer them through the finals of their first semester. We are going to be including some fresh, homemade Christmas cookies and would love your support with this mission. If you are able to help, please drop off the cookies in the kitchen on Sunday, December 4 by 10:30 am. Please make sure they are nut free and labeled "College Connection". If you would like to donate cookies but are unable to be at church on December 4, you can place them in the freezer and we will find them there. Also be on the lookout for the opportunity to write notes of encouragement and Christmas cheer to our college students. Tables will be set up in Fellowship Hall to do so on November 27 and December 4. Thanks for your support!

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## A Warm Welcome Winter Coat Drive

Small Groups ministry is sponsoring a winter coat drive for newly settled refugees in the Albany area. We are collecting new winter coats for men, women, and children in any size. Preferred styles are nylon "puffers" in dark colors. Please bring new winter coats to the marked bin in Fellowship Hall by December 15 or email Denise Walling for more information [dwalling@shenumc.org](mailto:dwalling@shenumc.org).

## **Christmas Decorating at Shen UMC** **Saturday, December 3 at 9:00 am**

Come join us as we decorate the church for the Christmas season. All are welcome and no skills are required! There are jobs for people of all ages and abilities. We would love to have you join us.

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## **Annual Christmas Cantata** **Sunday, December 4 at 7:30 pm**

This year our Christmas cantata will be held on Sunday, December 4 in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm. We will take a freewill offering with all profits going to CAPTAIN but there is no cost to attend. This wonderful cantata is entitled "A Weary World Rejoices" and includes parts of many familiar Christmas carols. It was written by Joseph Martin in response to coming out of the pandemic and transitioning back to normal. The cantata will be performed by our Chancel Choir and joined by people from other churches in the community. We look forward to seeing you there!

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## **Shen UMW Annual Christmas Luncheon** **Saturday, December 10, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm**

All women, men and their guests are welcome to attend our annual Christmas Luncheon at Cooley Kill Restaurant (formerly the Vista) at VanPatten Golf Course in Clifton Park. This year our guest speaker is Pastor Tiffany Lewis, Shen UMC Visitation Minister.

Lunch will be served at 12:00; the cost is \$26 per person which includes gratuity. Entree choices are Chicken Marsala, Top Sirloin Au Poivre or Grilled Salmon Filet with Béarnaise Sauce. Please make reservations by mailing your check (made out to SUMC UMW and marked UMW Christmas Luncheon) to Barbara Mazurak, 2560 Route 9, Lot 68, Malta, NY 12020. Please remember to include your choice of entree. **Reservations must be made by Monday, December 5.** Please contact Barbara at (518) 289-5948 with any questions. Barbara will be taking reservations on Nov. 20 in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour.



### **Sunday, November 27**

9:00 am Traditional Worship  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Coffee Hour  
10:30 am Junior Choir and Chimers  
11:00 am Contemporary Worship  
4:30 pm Small Group (Carlson) - HR  
6:30 pm Kasheweta Ringers

### **Monday, November 28**

1:00 pm Creative Hands - FH  
7:00 pm Church Council Meeting - HR

### **Tuesday, November 29**

**Poinsettia Orders Due Today**  
9:30 am Small Group (Smith) - HR  
2:00 pm Community Dinner Prep Begins  
6:15 pm Youth Bells  
7:00 pm Youth Choir

### **Wednesday, November 30**

9:30 am Journey Through the Bible - HR  
6:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Small Group (Walling) - HR

### **Thursday, December 1**

8:00 am Ladies' Breakfast – Halfmoon Diner  
10:00 am Grief Care Meeting - HR  
7:00 pm SPRC Meeting – HR  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Saturday, December 3**

9:00 am Christmas Decorating at Shen UMC

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November 28 - Poinsettia Orders Due  
December 1 - Ladies' Breakfast, 8:00 am  
December 3 - Christmas Decorating, 9:00 am  
December 4 - Annual Christmas Cantata, 7:30 pm  
December 10 - UMW (and Men) Christmas Luncheon



# Christmas Poinsettias and Food Pantry Donations

If you would like to help decorate the church for Christmas with poinsettias and/or make a monetary donation to the Jonesville Food Pantry, please complete and return this form by **November 28.**

**Completed forms with checks attached may be placed in offering plates or mailed to the church office:**

Shenendehowa UMC- Poinsettia Orders, 971 Route 146, Clifton Park, NY 12065

I/we wish to order: \_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia(s) @ \$11.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Color Options: Red \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_

Jonesville Food Pantry Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to Shen UMC** **Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

Given to the Glory of God (no specific dedication)

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

