

St. Philip's United Church of Christ

10708 Lavinia Drive St. Louis, Missouri 63123 314-843-5100

www.stphilipsucc.com

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent



Pastor: Rev. Laura Mignerone Council President: Sandy Stevenson
Administrative Assistant: Carol O'Shea Youth Director: Andrea Tukin

Liturgist: Terri Karcher
Music Director: Mike Orzel

*indicates that you may rise as comfortably able
(text in bold read in unison)

First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS and PRAYER CONCERNS

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

* CALL TO WORSHIP - Worship Ways - Inspired by Isaiah 64

Tear open the heavens and bring forth your presence. We watch and we wait for the glory to come.

We gather with hope, remembering your mercy. Lead us in love; shine from above.

Awaken the earth, enflame and enflesh, we watch and we wait for what's birthing ahead.

We gather with hope, remembering your justice. Revive us, restore us; shine from above.

Make us your love wave to broaden your reach, we watch and we wait for your deeds to appear.

We gather with hope, remembering your handiwork. Make us, mold us; shine from above.

* OPENING HYMN: "Spirit of the Living God" # 259 Sing twice
(During the hymn, the Advent Wreath Candles are placed)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION - Worship Ways (Together)

EI Shaddai—God of the mountains who quake at your presence, you meet us in our memory of you. We'd invite you to come down and dwell among us, yet we know that you are already and always with us.

Emmanuel, in our collective memory from ages past—God beside us,

God before us, God behind us, and God within us. Let your face shine so that we might remember you more clearly. Give us life and we will call on your name as we worship you in spirit and in truth. AMEN!

* LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE (PBUCC)

Beloveds, as we gather around this Advent wreath, what shape does our hope take today? Is it tall and wide, small yet persistent, soft or jagged with its edges?

May our hope be round and abundant, spherical like the earth, reminding us how everything is connected.

How at some point, even the barren desert bumps up against fecundity.

How at some point, what you thought would never end is bookended by the galaxies.

How in a timeline not our own, a candle appears in the Valley of Dry Bones,

With a voice that prophesizes, "I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live,"

And a heart that aches, "Where you will go, I will go."

Come, let us gather around this longing for light, and feel ourselves in the here and now.

Let us inhale the full width of our lungs and exhale a release,

Expansive enough to let the hope in. AMEN.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

HYMN: "One Candle is Lit" # 128 Verse 1

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,

our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.

Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.

One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

...Let us pray. (UCC BOW)

O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. By the good news of the Bible you are still bringing hope to people. Help us

to be ready to welcome Jesus Christ so that we may think good thoughts and do good deeds and so that we may be a people of hope in our world. AMEN.

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

RESPONSE: “Jesus Loves the Little Children”

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 13:24-27

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect

from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.
Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

HYMN: “Blessed Assurance” # 543 Verses 1-3

(During the hymn, the parament cloths are placed)

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born on his Spirit, washed in his blood.

(Refrain)

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above, echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

(Refrain)

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

(Refrain)

SERMON: “Hope”

Rev. Laura Mignerone

ANTHEM: "My Hope Is Built"

(During the anthem, the Creche is assembled)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Silence

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Your kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. AMEN.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERING

* Doxology #46 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, the heavenly host:

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication - Worship Ways (Together)

For the wondrous ways this offering will breathe hope into community, we dedicate these gifts. For the ways it will help us live out God's mission, we dedicate these gifts. Let these gifts strengthen our call to carry out God's justice and mercy. AMEN.

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING, POURING, SHARING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Together) Ministry Matters

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior, AMEN.

* CLOSING HYMN: "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" # 129 1-3

(During the hymn, the ornaments are placed on the tree)

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits!
The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! We open wide our hearts to you; here, Christ abide!
Let us your inner presence feel, your grace and love in us reveal.

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWS

We are again participating in Feed My People's "**Adopt a Family**" Program. We will collect funds for a gift card for each family member and a grocery card for a holiday meal. We have requested a family with school-age children this year, and LOGOS has expressed interest in buying one gift for each of the children in the family.

Contributions can be made in the offering plate or by mail. Please write "Adopt a Family" on the Lower left side of checks or specify "Adopt a Family" on the outside of your church contribution envelope.

Cap and Mitten Tree: a skinny little tree will appear in the gathering area during Hanging of the Greens on December 3. We will "decorate" it with scarves, mittens and gloves during advent, with items going to a charity, most likely Caroline Mission. All sizes, children's thru adult, are appreciated!

ADVENT WREATH READERS NEEDED!

Would you like to read the Advent Wreath liturgy and light the candles during worship on a Sunday morning OR Christmas Eve? Talk to Pastor Laura to volunteer!

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Christmas Program will be **December 17** during worship.

Plan to stay after church with Mike Orzel for about 10-15 minutes each Sunday through December 10 to practice our songs.

On December 10 please plan to stay about 30-45 minutes to do a rehearsal.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Tukin, 314-566-8633 or andreatukin@gmail.com.

PASTOR LAURA VACATION DECEMBER 25-JANUARY 1

Pastor Laura will be taking some vacation time.

In case of emergency pastoral care needs during this time, please reach out to our Council President, Sandy Stevenson.

BOOK CLUB

We will meet after church on Sunday, **December 10** to discuss *The Maid*, and to share a potluck lunch.

Our next selection is *Girl Waits With Gun* by Amy Stewart. Meeting date in January tbd. Books are available in kit form, and we always have a good time! Let Barbara Barnes know if you would like to have a copy of the book (314-843-4157). Consider joining us!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH BUNCH WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023 NOON – AT SANDY’S HOUSE

Join us for the annual pre-Christmas potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share and prepare for a time of food, fun and fellowship.

Don't forget to bring a wrapped white elephant present for the much anticipated and highly competitive Rob Your Neighbor contest. You never know what treasure you might win!

See the GREEN signup sheet on the bulletin board to RSVP or contact Sandy Stevenson.



Christmas Poinsettias

Back again this year are beautiful poinsettia plants in your choice of red or pink, and mums in either white or yellow.

The poinsettias will decorate the sanctuary on Sunday, December 24 during the Christmas Eve service. You may take your plants home after the Christmas Eve service.

The cost is \$11.50 each plant.

Make check payable to 'Walter Knoll Florist'

Name _____

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Color</u>
_____	Red Poinsettia
_____	Pink Poinsettia
_____	White Mum
_____	Yellow Mum

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

You can drop your order form and payment in the offering plate or give to Carol O'Shea in the church office **by Monday, December 11th**.

DECEMBER 24 WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30am Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

LOGOS

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM Wednesday, December 13 5:30 PM

Join us for dinner, games and a short Christmas program put on by the youth and families of LOGOS. We will have dessert and a craft afterwards!

This will be our last LOGOS of 2023. We will resume in January 2024! See you then!

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 9
5:00-7:00pm

Potluck (bring a dish to share)
Christmas games, Christmas
Karaoke, Christmas Crafts
and more!

Location at St. Philip's unless
someone wants to host!

[RSVP HERE](#) or contact
Andrea Tukin at 314-566-8633
or andreatukin@gmail.com

CAMP MO-VAL SURVEY

There are plans in the works to do a possible spring retreat at Camp MoVal in 2024. We would love your input as to what the day (or weekend) might look like for those who are interested. You may fill out the survey online by [CLICKING HERE](#) or there ARE PINK printed copies on the credenza (at church just outside the sanctuary) that can be turned in to the church office.

We would like to have the information gathered by **Sunday, December 3** so we can get something on the calendar. Thank you!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**Happy Birthday to our members
who will be celebrating this month.**

We will sing on the 1st Sunday of each month.

“Happy Birthday to You!,

Happy Birthday to You!,

Happy Birthday Everybody!

and God Bless You!”



Linda Kotthoff	5
Kim Tangeman	7
Sarah Witte	9
Carla Moran	11
Robyn Mikusch	15
Devin Coleman	21
Missy Ruffino	21
Chloe Armistead	24
Karen Nickel	26
Katie Eason	28
Ashley Henson	30
Scott Stevenson	30

HANGING OF THE GREENS ~ KIDS & FAMILIES

Families...please plan to stay after church on **Sunday, December 3** to help decorate the church for Christmas. There will be Christmas crafts and activities for the kids, and lunch is provided!

[RSVP HERE](#) if you know you'll be there so we can plan ahead (you're still welcome if you don't). Or see the RED signup sheet on the bulletin board. Looking forward to getting into the Christmas spirit with you!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Hanging of the Greens	4 7:00 Church Council Mtg	5	6	7	8 6:00-10:00 ECC MPR	9 noon-4:00 MPR Rent 5:00-7:00 Family Dinner
10 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Book Club	11 noon Christmas Poinsettia Orders Due	12	13 noon Lunch Bunch @ Sandy's 5:30-7:00 LOGOS	14 5:00-6:00 Scouts GS	15	16
17 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook - Youth Christmas Program 9:45 Sunday School	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook, Sunday School noon-6:00 MPR Rental 8:00p Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:30 Worship in-person, Facebook 9:45 Sunday School	1 January	2	3	4	5	6

**Our
Vision
Statement**

St. Philip's Vision Statement

We are called to the body of Jesus Christ, with:

Minds to study God's word,
Mouths to proclaim the Gospel,
Eyes to see the needs of others,
Arms to welcome all,

Hearts big enough to share God's love with all God's children.



Iveta Boyanchek

Joyce Brand

Bob Eillson

Grace Heady

Ron Hemingway

Virginia Hladnick

Mary Ann Krewson

Marilyn Milne

Jered Nagle

Shirley Nottelmann

Paul Shrout

Lily Swanson

Paula Williams



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