

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 16, 2018

Prelude: *Hymn Prelude on "Of the Father's Love Begotten"* .....Wilbur Held

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Giannini Family

\*Hymn 122 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

\*Words of Greeting and Peace

Celebration of Ministry

Anthem: *The Hands that First Held Mary's Child* .....Dan Forrest  
Dan Zambrano, cello

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
*All: Thanks be to God!*

\*We Sing in Adoration: *Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)*  
*Come and Worship*

\**Doxology*

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *O Holy Night* .....arr. Jon Schmidt & Steven Sharp Nelson  
Kimberly Prins Moeller, mezzo-soprano; Dan Zambrano, cello

Prayer of Confession

**Our Gracious God, despite your generous love to us, we have too often turned from your way to our own. We have tarnished the gift you freely gave. We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see you. We have ignored your teachings. We have defaulted to apathy. We have built fences and fortresses to push people away, particularly those who are most vulnerable. Forgive us. Free us from our sin, free us from our captivity, free us to live in the joy of your Incarnate Son, in whom forgiveness is real and possible—for us and for the whole world. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer / **The Lord's Prayer**

*Please feel free to use the altar as your place of prayer as we bow in humility before our loving heavenly Father.*

*If kneeling is difficult for you, please use the red chairs or stand by the altar rail.*

Song of Preparation: *Meekness and Majesty*

\*New Testament Reading: Luke 2:1-7  
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
*All: Thanks be to God!*

\*Song of Preparation *Welcome to Our World*

Sermon: **Unwrapping the Kingdom in the Government**  
Pastor Wes Oden

\*Hymn 115 *Joy to the World!*

\*Benediction

\*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

\*Postlude: *"In dulci jubilo"* BWV 729 .....J. S. Bach

\*Please stand if able  
Organist: Judy Congdon

Worship Leader: Pastor Jon Cole  
Acolyte: Zach Sisson

Music Ministry Team:  
Jeff Babbitt, Austen Kewin, vocals; Caleb Hilsher, guitar;  
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Bekah Brennan, keyboard & vocals;  
Dan Zambrano, cello; Dan Wartinger, percussion

Children's Worship bulletins are available in the church foyer for ages 3-12.

**NURSERY:** We provide a fully staffed nursery for infants up to two years of age. The Nursery is located on the first floor of the Christian Education Building and is available during services.

There are **KID'S BAGS AND BIBLES** available in the book shelf on the left side of the foyer next to the Men's restroom.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** During the 10:00 services, we will staff 2 children's church rooms. Room 116 will have the 2-3 year olds and room 115 will have the 4-5 year olds.

**JUNIOR CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL** will begin again on January 13th.

**WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH.** On this third Sunday of Advent we find ourselves in the middle of December—looking back and looking forward, pondering what has taken place and wondering what is yet to come. As we prepare for the celebration of Christ's coming, let's ask for open hearts and minds to Christ who is the Living Word.

**TONIGHT AT 5:00** join us for an hour of singing your favorite Christmas carols in the sanctuary followed by cookies and fellowship. Bring your instruments! Please bring a plate of cookies to the kitchen before the Carol Sing.

**MEETINGS THIS WEEK:** Elders, Tuesday, 7:00 pm

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING** we gather at 10:00 to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Pastor Wes' sermon will focus on the story of Revelation 12: *Unwrapping the Kingdom in Heaven.*

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 5:00 PM AND 7:00 PM** you are invited to our Christmas Eve Services. In both services, we will read the Scriptures that record our Savior's birth, we will sing carols that proclaim His birth, and we will light candles as a symbol of His birth. The 5:00 service will include a time for children.

**OUR 2018 CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING** will join matching Egyptian donors and help bring a vision for a church and National Training Center on choice urban land near Cairo granted by the Egyptian government.

**THE FLOWER COMMITTEE WELCOMES YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS.** You may purchase poinsettias we have already ordered (\$12.00) or you may bring your own on December 17. Please leave \$12 with Patty Stalker in the church office and fill out a reservation form indicating your preferences. If you wish to honor a loved one, please leave this information with Patty by December 17.

#### STEWARDSHIP

Received (June 1—Present): \$419,497.64 / Budgeted (June 1—Present): \$427,935.20

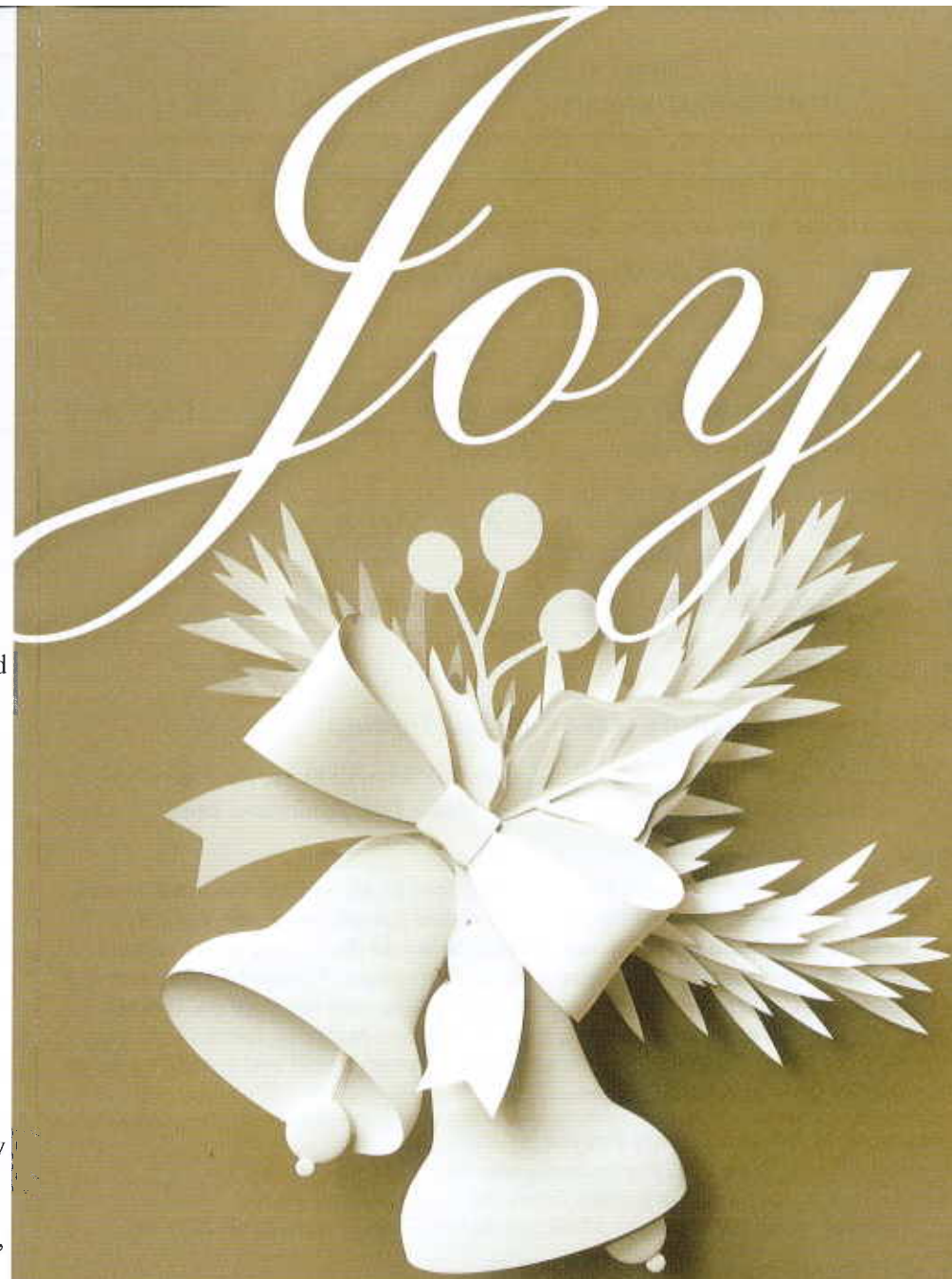
**MISSION MOMENT** – Joel and Barb Trudell need prayer for final visa approval in their move to South Africa. Meanwhile their leadership roles in local language and Bible usage have taken them to four continents multiple countries. We pray for all the Wycliffe Bible translations projects and team members they interact with.

**PERSECUTED CHURCH** – Recent first-hand reports tell of heightened oppression of pastors and churches in East Asia and West Africa. Church leaders exhort Believers to stay strong and bold, but constant threats, arrests and terror tests the faith of pastors and congregations.

#### HOLIDAY SERVICES

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|---------------------|---|
| Sunday, December 16 | 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service<br>5:00 p.m. – Carol Sing/Cookie Reception<br>(Bring your instruments) |
| Sunday, December 23 | 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service  |
| Monday, December 24 | 5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service<br>7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service      |
| Sunday, December 30 | 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service  |
| Sunday, January 6   | 10:00 a.m. – Worship Service  |
| Sunday, January 13  | 8:20 a.m., 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – Worship Services  |

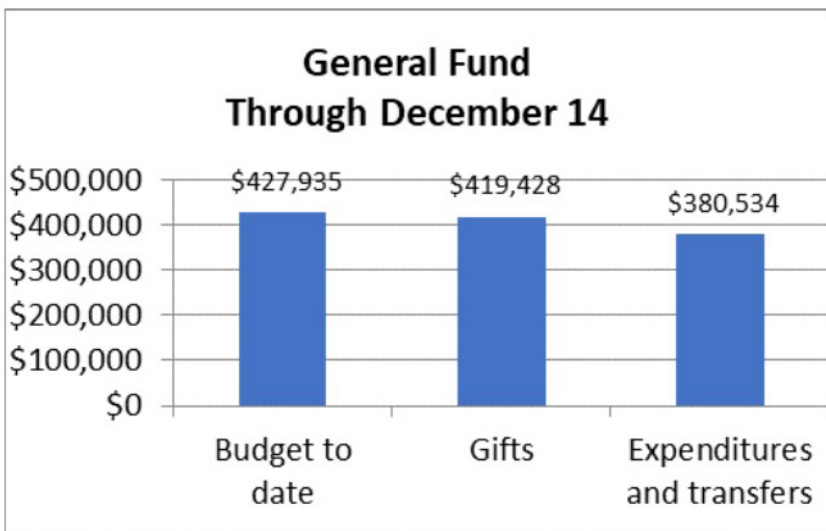
**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Ray Ott, Eileen Spear, Sheryl O'Brien, Roselyn Danner, Gwen Mercer, Bethie Liddick, Bill Getty, Bev Rhett, Nancy Cole, Gus and Louise Prinsell, Florence Teuber, Phil Main, Emily Crikelair, Mike Raybuck, Sheldon Emerson (Darby Luckey's brother), Eila Shea, Peter Lingenfelter, Izabela Daugherty (Dave and Karen's daughter-in-law), Dan Gurley, Paul Johnson; for the injured and grieving from tragedies and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the Anchor Baptist Church, Wellsville (Pastor David Cacciola).



*H*appiness and joy will  
overwhelm them; grief and groaning  
will flee away. –ISAIAH 35:10

# STEWARDSHIP *A Life of Generosity*

Christmas is a time to reflect on God's greatest gift—sending Jesus to earth. As the book of John describes Jesus coming to earth it tells us “In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the dark-ness, and the darkness has not over-come it” (John 1:4-5). We are grateful for this gift of light in our world full of darkness. We give to God's Kingdom as part of showing our gratitude and to spread his light to all the world.



Reminder: All gifts for calendar year 2018 need to be given in church on December 31st or be delivered to the church office by the 31st, mailed with a postmark date of December 30th or earlier, or need to be made online by Thursday, December 28th with a transaction date of Friday, December 29th at the latest.