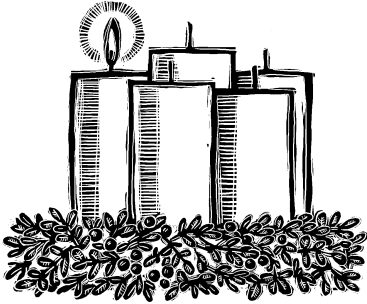


First Sunday
in Advent



St. John's Chapel
United Church of Christ

4344 S. Fremont Ave.
Springfield, MO 65804-7306
www.stjohnschapel.org

November 28, 2010

Hanging of the Green

10:30 A.M.

*(*Denotes when to stand if able.)*

Gathering

Meditative Music

Tom Davis

As we gather for worship we invite you to observe silence and enter into reflection. The theme of today's worship will focus on our need to get "cleaned up" in order to welcome Christmas.

Space to write down your thoughts that surface while you meditate:

Or you may wish to light a candle or receive communion at the altar.

Lighting of Altar Candles

Acolyte: Sadie Harper

Ringing of Bells

Choral Processional

"Jesus Christ the Apple Tree"

Poston

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Aho and Wolfe Families

This year we will be recognizing individuals and families who have newly joined us. Not all members of the Aho/Wolfe family are new, but some are.

Unison: As our days grow shorter and our nights longer, we who are people of faith turn to symbols such as candles, evergreens and wreaths to proclaim our belief in an unquenchable light; our longing for the One who tears open the heavens; comes down and kindles a fire in our soul. We, who are impregnated with anticipation feel hope rising up within us as the first light of Christmas appears.

Welcome

Pastor Stephan Scharf

***Call to Celebration**

Pastor: Today we prepare the way, by preparing this house of worship for the birth of Christ.

People: **There are many symbols of waiting and preparation that we place in our sanctuary.**

Pastor: Among the symbols is the Advent Wreath. The circle of the wreath like God, has no beginning and no end.

People: **Let us bring forth circles of evergreens, a circle of meaning, a symbol of that which is eternal and as victorious as the everlasting promises of the coming Christ.**

***Carol of Celebration**

“Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus”

No. 157

Hanging of Wreaths

The Legend of the Christmas Tree

Pastor Becky Hebert

***Hanging Chrismons**

Those with ornaments proceed forward to hang them on the Christmas tree. As the tree is decorated we will sing “O Christmas Tree

***Carol**

“O Christmas Tree”

German Carol

Germany

Moderately

mf O Christ - mas tree, O Christ - mas tree, How love - ly are your branch - es,

So green and bright in sum - mer - time, As well as win - ter's snow - y clime, O

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Christ - mas tree, O Christ - mas tree, How love - ly are your branch - es." The chords are indicated above the staff: D, A7, D, G, A7, D. The first measure has a '1' below the first note, indicating a first ending.

***Call to Confession**

Pastor Stephan Scharf

Pastor: How shall we make this place a reminder of our need for repentance?

People: **By taking an inventory of the ways we have sinned and by confessing them to God.**

***Prayer of Confession**

All: In this Advent time of hope, dear God, we wait. We await the birth of Christ in our hearts, remembering that we must go through John the Baptist to get there. In order for Christ to be born in us, individually and as a community, we must empty ourselves of our sins and our preconceived notions that block the birth of Christ. We confess we would prefer taking the short-cut to Christmas. We would much prefer spending our time in the hustle and bustle of the season; wrapping presents and tying pretty bows and calling it *preparation*. Forgive our desire to turn from the real work of preparing ourselves for the arrival of The Christ Child. Amen.

***Silent Meditation and Personal Confession**

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Pastor Stephan Scharf

Pastor: Let God's Love cleanse our hearts!

People: **If we repent and believe in God's redeeming mercy, our sins are forgiven.**

Pastor: By trusting in God's promises, we begin anew our life with God and all people.

***Gloria Patri**

("Glory Be to the Father" No. 9 in *Sing to the Lord*)

Children's Time

(Children may exit after for Pageant Practice)

Joys and Concerns

Pastor Becky Hebert

Morning Prayer

Reading of Holy Scripture

Matthew 3: 1-12

p. 878

Sermon

“Preparing the Way”

Pastor. Becky Hebert

The Crèche

Hymn

“Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go”

No. 781

Offertory

Instrumental Passage

Performed by Kyle Aho

***Doxology**

(“Praise God” No 7 in *Sing to the Lord*)

Service of Holy Communion (pp. 13-14 of *Worship Resources* in pew rack.)

Sharing the Elements

(Please hold the cup and bread until all have been served. Note the center circle of the communion cup receptacles contains grape juice.)

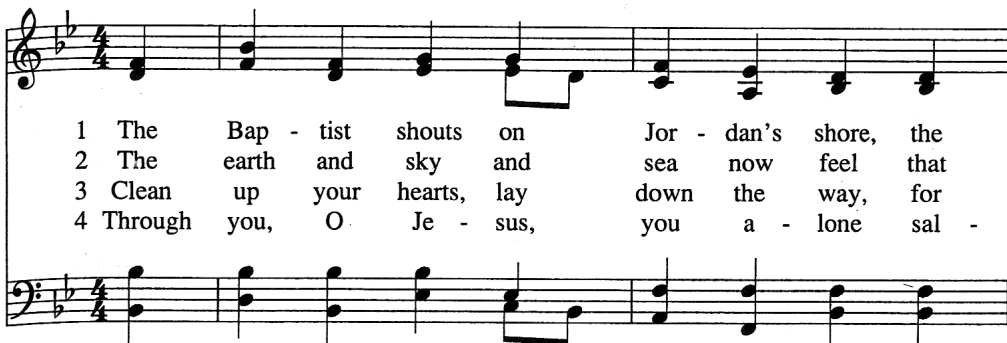
***In the Life of the Church**

***Benediction**

Closing Hymn

“The Baptist Shouts on Jordan’s Shore”

vs. 1-3



1 The Bap - tist shouts on Jor - dan's shore, the
2 The earth and sky and sea now feel that
3 Clean up your hearts, lay down the way, for
4 Through you, O Je - sus, you a - lone sal -



earth shakes with the might - y roar, A - wake, let laz - y
 which their Au - thor will re - veal: The Child now leap - ing
 God ap - proach-es day by day; Pre - pare for such a
 va - tion, so - lace, strength are known; With - out your love we

sleep now flee: be - hold, the voice of proph - e - cy!
 in the womb as God does hu - man form as - sume.
 wor - thy heir, for such a guest your house pre - pare.
 fade like grass, like wilt - ed flowers our lives will pass.

Organ Postlude

Played by Kyle Aho

To Our Congregation...The Ministerial Relations Committee will meet Sunday, December 5. Please speak out and let your “likes and would likes” be known to any of the following committee members.

**Thanks, Jim May, Council President
 Karl Kruger . Nancy Anderson . Chris Trumbull**

You, whether a member or guest, are an important and valuable part of this St. John’s Chapel Community. Your participation in this worship service is a blessing. May you always know God’s gift of unending love.

A nursery is available during worship for children up through three years of age. If you need help locating the nursery, please ask an usher.

Hearing-assistance devices are available for use during worship. If you would like to use one, please ask an usher to get one for you.



Crosslines Toy “Store” 2010

Donate a gift for a 0-23 month old

*FYI, stuffed animals are the **least** chosen toys.*

Leave toys as purchased in manufacturers’ packaging with the price tag intact.

Our 2009 Crosslines Toy Store Coordinator is Eleanor Lockhart, 881-3811.

Toys are due before December 12—Bring hope & smiles to local little ones!

**The December Messenger is available in the Narthex~
And please pick up the MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATES, in the
Narthex (before you send out Christmas Cards)~**

This list is being printed in lieu of a Membership Directory for 2011.



2011 Advent Calendar

Sunday, November 28: First Sunday of Advent

Hanging of the Green

The Aho-Wolfe Families

Sunday, December 5: Second Sunday of Advent]

Evelyn Edwards & Sharon Haislip

Sunday, December 12: Third Sunday of Advent

Favorite Hymn Sunday

The Thompsons and Pat Barnes

Sunday, December 19: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Children’s Pageant

Christy & Hillary Dempsey

Friday, December 24: Candlelight & Holy Communion Service, 7:30 pm



Merry Christmas



IT'S TIME FOR *POINSETTIAS*

A donation of everlasting, permanent poinsettias has been made to our Chapel. In addition to remaining perfectly lovely through the Christmas season, these already purchased poinsettias enable **100% of your donation** to go towards feeding families via Friendship Circle's Food Pantry/Crosslines in this year of tremendous need.

- 1) Fill out the form below.
- 2) Include your check for the desired amount made out to Friendship Circle, noting "Crosslines" on the memo line.
- 3) Prior to **Sunday, December 12**, turn in your check and completed form in an envelope clearly marked POINSETTIAS to the Chapel Office.

And we would love to have your independently purchased live poinsettias beautify our altar. Just remember to make a donation to the Poinsettia Fund, too!

POINSETTIA DONATION FORM *Please Print*

Donor's Name _____

Circle one:

Given in Memory Of _____

Given in Honor Of _____

Today's Date _____

Thank you for caring



www.stjohnschapel.org

Our Stewardship for Sunday, November 21, 2010

Worship: 73

Offering: \$1,966.00

Sunday School: 15

Offering: \$7.00

The average weekly offering needed to meet annual budget is \$2,704.00



Sunday School — 9:15 AM
 Worship — 10:30 AM
 Pastor's Day Off — Friday

Secretary's Office Hours: 8:30 AM — 1:30 PM
 Monday-Friday

**This week's "special offering basket" in the Narthex is for~
 United Ministry in Higher Education**

November 28, 2010

Jim May will open the church in December

TODAY: First Sunday of Advent
 Communion
 Hanging of the Green Special Service

Wednesday: Bells Practice 6:30 pm
 Choir Practice 7:40 pm

Friday: Spiritual Development Course 6:00 pm

Saturday: Bread for the World, National Avenue Christian Church 9:00 am

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent
 Communion
 Pastor Relations Meeting following Worship



Our Mission Statement

St. John's Chapel UCC is called to love unconditionally, seek justice, foster spiritual growth, and embrace diversity of thought and body as taught by Jesus Christ.