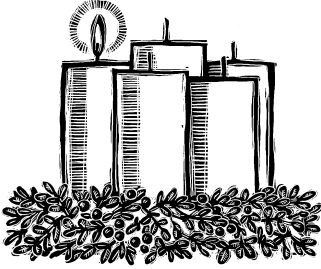


First Sunday
in Advent



St. John's Chapel
United Church of Christ

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

Liturgist: Judith Bartell

November 29, 200

The First Sunday of Advent

10:30 A.M.

(*Denotes when to stand if able.)

Gathering

Meditative Music

As we gather for worship we invite you to observe silence and enter into reflection. The theme of today's worship will focus on the conception of our spiritual development. You might want to reflect on where you are on your spiritual journey today.

Space to write down your thoughts: _____

You may wish to light a candle at the communion table to symbolize the concerns or joys you carry with you to worship, or whatever is in your heart and mind. Or you may wish to reflect on this where you are, today, on your faith journey. Or if you reflect better walking, please walk around the sanctuary and reflect upon images you encounter.

Processional Anthem "Of the Father's Love Begotten" 13th Century Plainsong

Lighting of Altar Candles Acolyte: Sadie Harper

Meditative Hymn "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" No 157
Please remain seated for this hymn as it is part of our time of meditation and reflection.

Lighting of the Advent Candle (Need a family to do this)

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 the 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 and Announcements

Members and guests, please sign the friendship pad and pass it down to the end of the pew. Then, pass it back toward the aisle noting the names of those seated next to you. After worship, greet those who are sitting in the pew with you.

Farewell to Jake and Vanessa Gonzenbach

*Call to Celebration

Leader: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of God, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God's way, and that we may walk in God's paths."
(Isaiah 2:2-3)

People: With what shall we come to God's house?

Leader: Bring branches of cedar and holly. Bring evergreens and hang wreaths.

People: In the act of hanging greens and listening to the words of prophets and seers let us make our hearts and this space a place of inward and outward preparation for the One who comes to give us second birth.

*Carol of Celebration "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 163 Hanging of Wreaths

*Hanging Chrismons

Leader: Here in this place we prepare for the coming of Christ. Here we will remember his Advent, his birth in Bethlehem, weak and helpless as an infant. And here, we rekindle our prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus" as we await him coming.

People: Hang symbols and signs of Christ — ruler, prophet, priest. Hang stars, crosses, triangles, the "alpha" and "omega" to remind us of his identity, his story, and of the holy Trinity.

Pastor: "See, I am coming soon...I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are those who wash robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears, "Come!" (Rev. 22: 12-14, 17)

*Carol "O Christmas Tree" German Carol Hanging of Chrismons

(Those with ornaments proceed forward to hang them on the Christmas tree.
The children may remain up front with pastor.)

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

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

***Gloria Patri**

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

Children’s Time

(Children may exit for Pageant Practice)

Morning Prayer

Gospel Reading

Luke 1: 5-25

p. 931

Sermon

“Spiritual Intrusions”

The Rev. Becky Hebert

The Crèche

Sacrament of Baptism

***Congregational Assent**

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love to the one about to be baptized, and encouragement to his parent and godparents that as he lives and grows in Christ that he will receive the care and support of a local congregation.

People: **We promise our love and encouragement.**

Hymn

“Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go”

No. 781

Call to Confession

***Silent Meditation and Personal Confession**

Unison Confession

O God, whose Spirit penetrates each crevice of creation and each moment of time, we confess that we have lost or had stolen from us our innate ability to conceive and receive Your holiness. We are often blind to Your activity in others or even in ourselves. We miss the acts of mercy and justice in daily events that could overwhelm us with glory upon glory. Forgive us our dullness, to You, being born all around us. Amen

***Assurance of Pardon and Invitation to the Table**

Offertory "The Holly and the Ivy" arr. Martin

Doxology ("Praise God" No 7 in *Sing to the Lord*)

Presentation of the Elements and Offering

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

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

mp Men's voices – In chant style

1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, Ere the worlds be - gan_ to be,
 He is Al-pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the end - ing, He,
 Of the things that are, that have _____ been, And that fu - ture
 years shall see, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more!_____

S.A. unison

Organ Postlude "Moderato, Movement I of the" Herzog
Op. 62, No. 1

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.

Keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

Members:

Sharon Haislip: is thrilled to report that nothing was discovered in her lymph nodes, but further tests and oncologist visits are needed to ensure that other areas are not affected. Additional radiation is almost certain.

Family and Friends:

Carsen Glaser: (Daughter of members Rhonda & Melissa) is doing so well that she is helping to light our first Advent candle this morning, though still receiving breathing treatments and therapy at home.

Peggy Gilbert: (Friend of Tona Griggs) is battling aggressive breast cancer.

Josephine Walker: (Jeanne Kruger's mother) is at Magnolia Square, Room 228.

Joyce Johnson: (Friend of Glenda Weise), Her breast cancer has returned.

Todd McClain: (Cousin of Melissa Burnett) is undergoing extensive medical tests.

Our Stewardship for Sunday, November 22, 2009

Sunday School	26	Offering	\$17.00
Worship	93	Offering	\$2,545.00

Stewardship
Sunday



**Please let us know if you did not receive your
STEWARDSHIP LETTER last week~
Thank you, Tona Griggs & Nancy Anderson**

PLEDGE thoughtfully—**GIVE** from your heart

Discernment Prayers for Our Church

Prayer time is on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month.

The next prayer date is **December 8**





Crosslines Toy "Store" 2009

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 13—Bring hope & smiles to local little ones!

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 13**, place both check and completed form in an envelope clearly marked POINSETTIAS in the offering plate or 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:

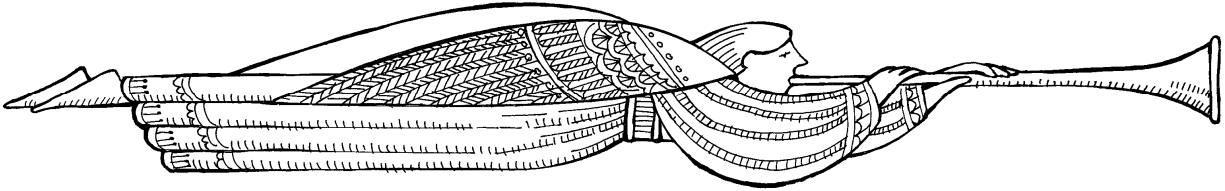
Given in Memory Of _____

Given in Honor Of _____

Today's Date _____

Thank you for caring





CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT THE CHAPEL 2009

DEC 6

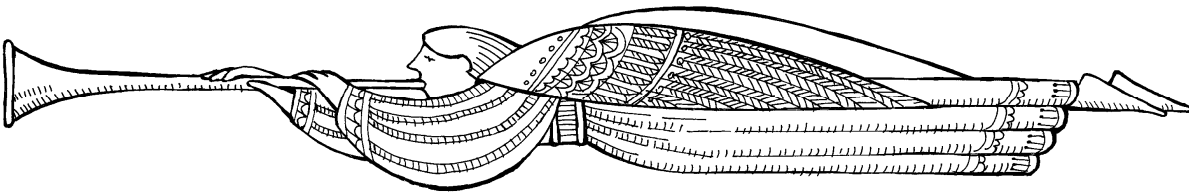
A Special **ADVENT CANTATA** & Communion
this morning during worship~
Ongoing, our Toy Collection for Crosslines.

DEC 13

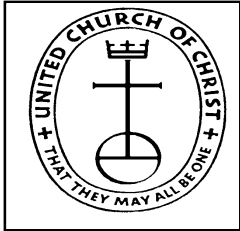
CHILDREN'S PAGEANT today during worship~
Donated toys are due today.

DEC 20

Enjoy **FAVORITE HYMNS** this morning~
Serve at The Kitchen, Downtown, 4:15 pm.



*Farewell & All the Best to
Jack & Vanessa Gonzenbach~*



Worship — 10:30 AM

Pastor's Day Off — Friday

Secretary's Office Hours: 8:30 AM — 1:00 PM Monday-Friday

November 29, 2009

Shirley Datema will open the church in November

- Today: First Sunday of Advent..... 10:30 am
 - Hanging of the Green
 - Communion
 - Baptism of Jacob McDonald
 - Confirmation Class..... 5:00 pm
- Monday: Grace & Weight 5:30 pm
- Wednesday: Spiritual Development..... 4:30 pm
 - Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
- Saturday: Bread for the World, Prince of Peace Lutheran 9:00 am
- Next Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent..... 10:30 pm
 - The Advent Cantata
 - Communion
 - Bring Crosslines Food
 - Confirmation Class..... 5:00 pm

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.

